AFTER THE RAIN

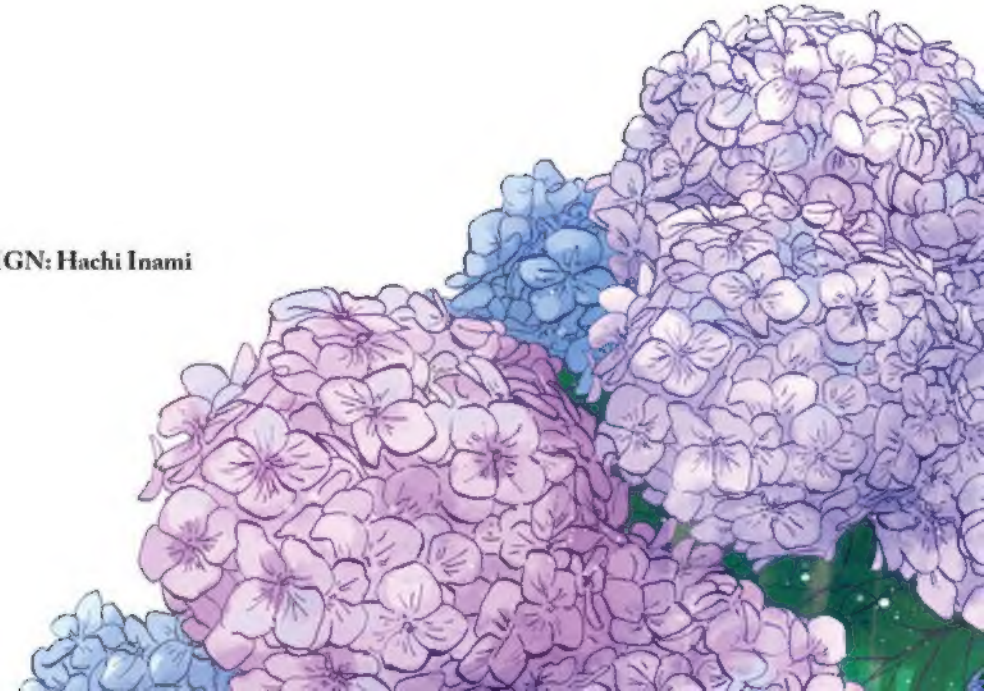
Aki Ueda

Qpa collection
takeshobo
bamboo comics

Aki Ueda

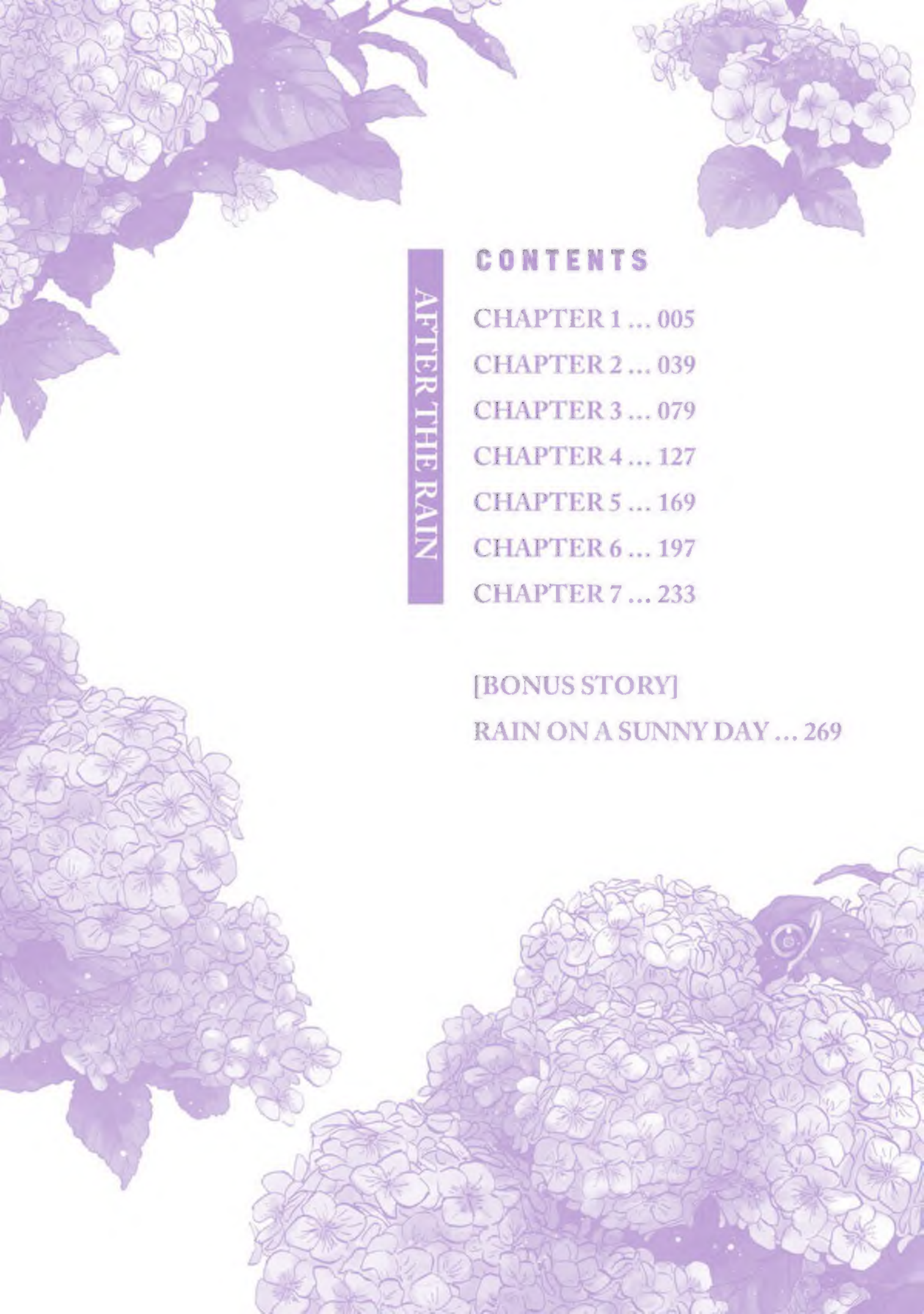
THIS STORY IS A SPINOFF ABOUT NATSURO, WHO APPEARS IN THE WORK, "WANDERING BORDER." ENJOY!

COVER DESIGN: Hachi Inami



AFTER THE RAIN

Aki Ueda 上田アキ



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[BONUS STORY]
RAIN ON A SUNNY DAY ... 269

"I WANT TO END OUR RELATIONSHIP."

CHAPTER 1

AFTER THE RAIN

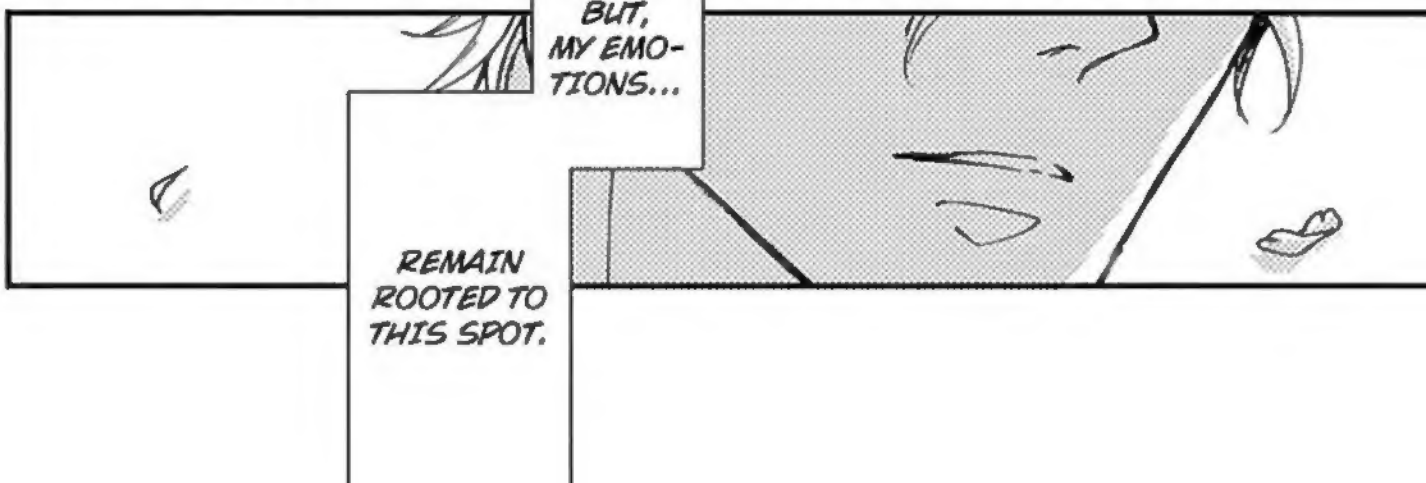
CHAPTER 1

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THAT DAY...

...!
SNIFF

...I CAN'T HELP COMING HERE...
THOUGH I WANT TO FORGET IT ALL...

I CAN'T CRY HERE...
HE CUT ME...
RIGHT THROUGH MY HEART WITH HIS WORDS.


BUT, MY EMO-TIONS...
REMAIN ROOTED TO THIS SPOT.

...MOST OF THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS...
HAVE FALLEN...
IF ONLY...
MY REGRETS COULD GO AWAY WITH THEM...
...SILLY ME.
UM... MISTER?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE COVERED IN PETALS.
MOST OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HAVE FAL-LEN...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING HERE FOR THIS TO HAPPEN?
BUT YOU HAVE PETALS ALL OVER YOU.

...FOR A MINUTE THERE...
HE LOOKED LIKE HIROHARU WHEN WE FIRST MET...
GASP!
HIRO...
OH!
...SORRY.
UH...
I'M TSUYUHIKO.
TSUYU-HIKO...

WEIRD NAME, HUH?

YEAH, I GET THAT REACTION A LOT.

SLUMP

I'M...

NATSURO.

NICE TO MEET YOU, NATSURO!

...ON CLOSER INSPECTION, THEY DON'T LOOK THAT ALIKE...

I MEAN IT.

IT'S A NICE NAME.

IT'S OKAY. I DON'T HATE IT OR ANYTHING.

NOT AT ALL.

OH...

HAHA!

SURE.

IS IT, THOUGH?

NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

...MAYBE THERE IS A RESEMBLANCE IN THE SMILE...
THROB...
OH...
I GUESS I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT.
...THANKS.
REACH
WHAT HAPPENED WITH THIS HIRO GUY?
...NATSURO...
DID HE, BY ANY CHANCE...

DUMP YOU?
RIP!
YOU COULD? ...OH, NO.
...HAHA!
I COULD TELL BY THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
REALLY?
...PRECISELY.

HUH ...?
I LIVE NEARBY.
YOU CAN RELAX AND TELL ME YOUR STORY.
!
HOW ABOUT COMING OVER TO MY PLACE?
HEY.
PUSH!

BESIDES... I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE LIKE THIS.

IT'S A LITTLE HEAVY, SPILLING MY GUTS TO A BOY I'VE JUST MET...
THOUGH HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD GUY...
CLATTER!
...THANKS.
BUT, NO THANKS. I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU.

IT'S NO TROUBLE...
AND I'M INVITING YOU.

...I WONDER IF THIS IS HOW HIROHARU WAS FEELING...
WHEN WE MET FIVE YEARS AGO.
IF YOU SIT THERE LOOKING LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY...
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF PICKED UP BY SOME NASTY GUY.
...
...
...YEAH.
MAYBE I'LL GET PICKED UP...
RIGHT NOW...
ALL RIGHT!

TSUYU-HIKO...?
...HEY...

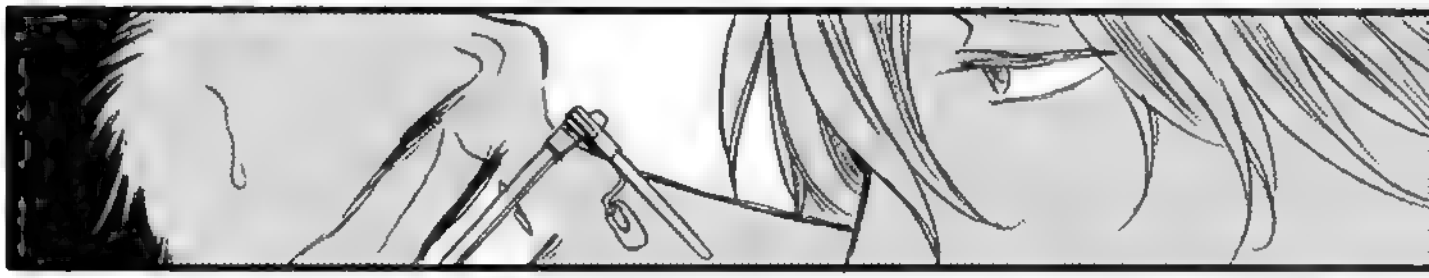
DIDN'T YOU SAY WE'D... TALK?
YEAH?
YEP.

BUT, UH... DON'T YOU THINK... THERE'S AN ORDER... TO THESE THINGS?
GOOD! THANKS!
OF COURSE WE'LL TALK!
LATER.

FWUMP!
ぼいぃん
UM, THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
NO PROBLEM. I'M A BOTTOM.
IT'S OKAY. I'M GOOD AT THIS.
OKAY, WE'RE GOOD!
RELAX, I'M PERFECTLY HEALTHY!!
UH... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
HEY.
I LOOK LIKE YOUR HIRO, DON'T I?
HUH ...?
IN THAT CASE...
... UH...
I LOOK LIKE HIM ENOUGH FOR YOU TO THINK I'M HIM, RIGHT?
TWITCH
SLIDE...

YOU CAN PRETEND I'M HIM.

YOU CAN PUSH ME AWAY IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT.



...I...

I CAN'T...

I CAN'T... DO EITHER...

...!

B-DMP!

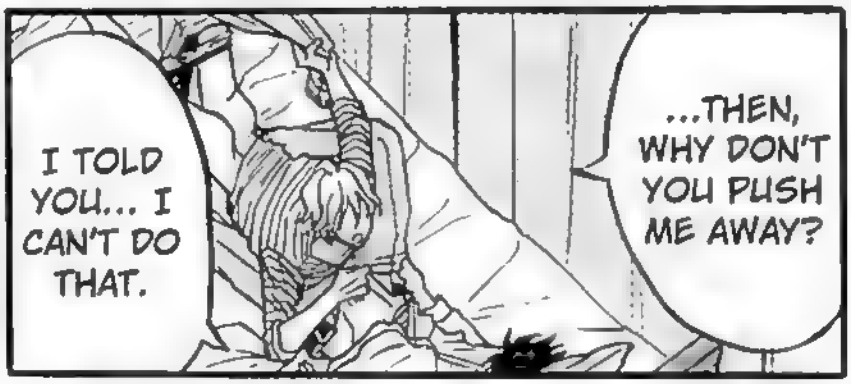
TUG!
CLINK
CLINK!
FWUMP!
NEITHER CAN I.
H-... HEY...
HUH ...!?
TSUYU-HIKO!
ZIIIP!
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN...
SPROING
TWITCH!
SUCK
...NH.
THAT FEELS GOOD...
PANT
...HF!
SLCH
SUCK
SUCK...
SLCH
MN...!
MMPH!

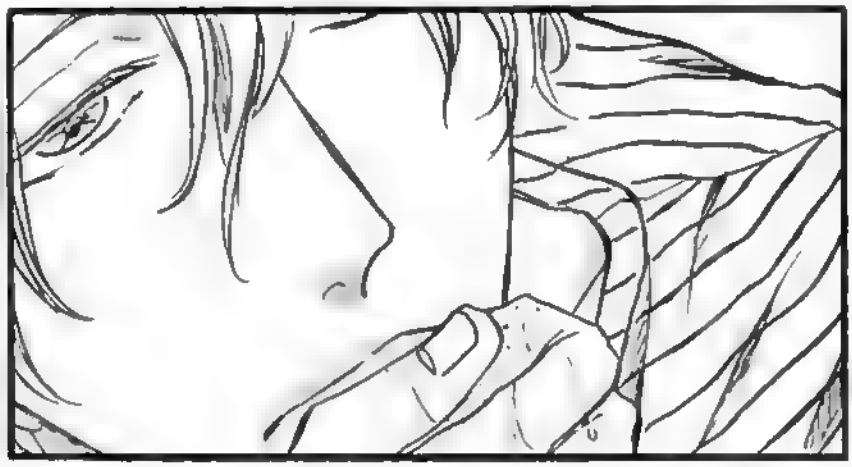
CLICK!
...!
GULP!
...
...
SST!
HM?
...YOU'RE REALLY GOOD.
YOU HAVE STUFF ON YOUR NOSE.
YEAH? THANKS!
RUFFLE
...
...
PANT!
SLCH!
...UM... TSUYUHIKO?

HEHE!
YOU'RE PRETTY HONEST, NATSURO.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST STOP THINKING?
IF YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN'T STOP ME...
AND YOU CAN'T FORGET HIRO OR PRETEND I'M HIM...
SQCH!
CREAK!
NO...! UH...
JUST FOR NOW.

I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS...
LET'S STOP THIS.
HAHA...!
THAT'S WHY.
WHY NOT? YOU'VE GOT IT UP.

...
...!
IT ISN'T LIKE YOU DON'T LIKE THIS.


I TOLD YOU... I CAN'T DO THAT.
...THEN, WHY DON'T YOU PUSH ME AWAY?



...MN.
HF ...!
SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE FOR YOU AFTER WE DO THIS, YOU KNOW?
PLUNGE

HE..
PANT...
SLAP!
AH!
SQCH!
SQCH!
MM...
CREAK!
HF...
NGH ...!
MN!
SQCH!
SQCH!
AH...
CREAK!
YEAH... THAT'S GOOD...
AH!
MAYBE...
I WAS HOPEFUL...
AH!
PANT!
NATSURO ...!
CREAK!
CREAK!
SQUEEZE!
...I CAN'T...
EVEN TELL ANYMORE...
HF!
PANT!
...MN...
SLAP! SLAP!

IS IT GOOD...?
IF I JUST... WANT TO FORGET...
PANT!
PANT!
NATSURO...
YOUR DICK GETS BIG AND SMALL INSIDE ME.
TOUCH!
...NATSU-RO...
...HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?
SQCH
HF...!
...NH.
SQCH!
CREAK!
CREAK!
SURE. WE SHOULD.
WE CAN HAVE MORE AND MORE SEX.
PULL!
NH... AH!
TWITCH!
SQCH
SQCH
SQCH
WE SHOULDN'T...
PLEASE...

...HEY.
THIS IS SO RANDOM.
SU-D...!
...DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
CREAK!
CREAK!
TWITCH!
MN...!
I FEEL... A BIG ONE COMING...!
...SHIT.
THRUST...
PLUNGE!
SQCH
SQCH
AH...!
HF!
M-... MY MIND... IS GOING BLANK...
AH!
AH...
PANT!
CREAK!
PANT!
SLIP
MN...
...I DON'T... WANT THIS...
...
...

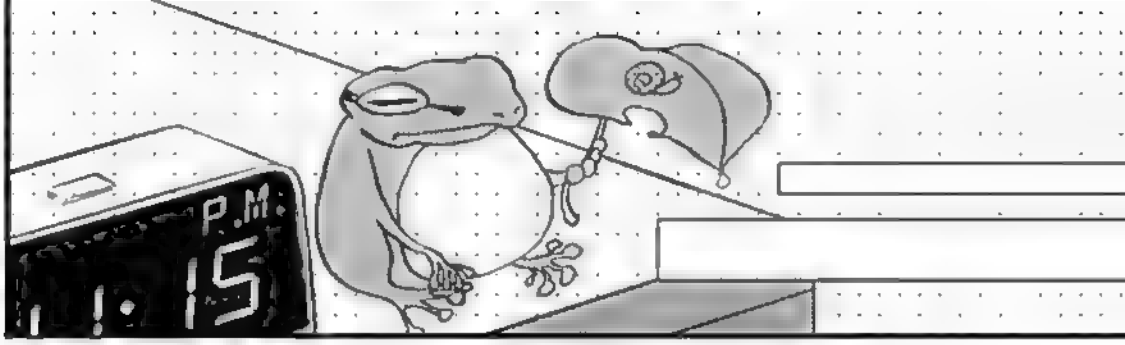
THIS IS AMAZING...
...WHAT'S WITH ME!?
HFF!
HFF!
...!
HUH?
...DON'T KNOW.
MUMBLE!
HF!
AHH!
THRUST
WHOA!
SLAP
AH!
MN!
AH!
SLAP!
HF!
SLAP
FWUMP
SLAP
PANT!
TSUYU-HIKO...
HF!
HF.

HFF!
I DON'T KNOW...
HFF!
WHO I AM ANYMORE...
HFF!
...WHOA.
TREMBLE!

DON'T HOLD BACK...
HF... AH!
SLAP!
MN!
SQCH!
SQCH!
CREAK!
HF!
CREAK!
AH!
CREAK!
AHN.
CREAK!
LET IT ALL OUT.
NATSURO... YEAH...
THAT'S IT...!
MN!
AH!
CREAK!
SLAP
SLAP!
HF...!
CREAK!
CREAK!

TEA-
>RY!
DRIP
DRIP
SHIT...
NATSU-RO...
I'M GONNA COME...
SHIVER!

CREAK!
AH!
AH!
AH...
CREAK
HF...
CREAK!
CREAK!
AH!
AHN!
SQCH!
CREAK!
SQCH
PUSH...
...HF!
PANT
はぁ
...YOU CAN COME...
はぁっ
PANT!
INSIDE ME...
NATSURO...


P.M.
11:15

...UH...
TSUYU-HIKO...

I MUST HAVE GOTTEN CARRIED AWAY.
SORRY.
HM?
UH... YOU HAVE HICKIES AT THE BASE OF YOUR NECK...

I'LL LISTEN. YOU CAN PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF AT THAT PARK.
OH! I KNOW.

...OKAY.
CHUCKLE!
PUCL!

I FEEL REFRESHED, LIKE THE SPIRIT THAT POSSESSED ME HAS GONE AWAY...
THANKS.
YEAH.
YOU'RE SURE?

...NO.
IT'S OKAY NOW.

DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT...
IT FEELS GOOD TO GET A RELEASE!
FWUMP!

...JUST A LITTLE.
BUT NOW, I WONDER IF THERE'S EVEN A RESEMBLANCE AT ALL.
OH.
WHAT IS IT? DO I LOOK LIKE HIM AFTER ALL?
HUH?

STARE...!

OH, RIGHT.
I WAS THINKING WE'D BARELY EVEN KISSED.

NEVER MIND THAT...

KISS

KISS ME TOO MANY TIMES AND I WON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME, THOUGH?
PRESS!
...!
FSSSHHH
HERE. USE THIS.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH... IT'S RAINING.
THOSE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS ARE DOOMED.

YOU CAN COME BACK AND RETURN IT ANOTHER TIME.

THANKS...

...YEAH.

IT APPEARED TO LOOK A LOT DIFFERENT FROM JUST A FEW HOURS AGO.

I WALKED THROUGH THAT PARK ON MY WAY HOME.

END

CHAPTER 2
THAT'S NICE.
THIS SPRING, MY DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND TOOK ME TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE.
...AND, YOU KNOW WHAT?
CHUCKLE
I'M GLAD TO HEAR ALL OF YOU WENT TOGETHER.
AT MY AGE, IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY EXCITING THING THAT EVER HAPPENS.
RESIDENT CONSULTATION
IT'S ALMOST THE RAINY SEASON.
EARLY SUMMER IS VERY BRIEF, TOO, ISN'T IT?
WE HAVE TO ENJOY THE FINE WEATHER WHILE IT LASTS.
ABSO-LUTELY.

AFTER THE RAIN

CHAPTER 2

I NEVER GOT HIS NUMBER...
OH.
FSSSHHH
...IS IT OKAY TO GO DIRECTLY TO HIS PLACE...?
...WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE TOLD ME TO BRING IT BACK, BUT...
HMM...
MAYBE I'LL LEAVE IT OUTSIDE HIS DOOR... OH, THAT'S JUST AS WEIRD.
NAH... THAT'D BE WEIRD. WE ONLY MET ONCE...

...THE REAL QUES-TION HERE...
IS WHAT I WANT TO DO...
FSSSHHH
WE GOT OFF EARLY, BUT IT'S ALREADY POURING.
WHOA.
SUGINO... DO YOU WANT TO USE MINE?
HUH!?
I DIDN'T BRING MY UMBREL-LA...
SHIT...

REALLY!? THANKS!
ONE OF THEM'S BORROWED. I'VE BEEN CARRYING IT AROUND FOR A WHILE.
HEY, NATSURO... WHY DO YOU HAVE TWO UMBRELLAS?
THANKS A LOT!
FLUTTER
...SO... NOW WHAT?

YOU CAME!
NATSURO!

HAHAHA. THAT WAS NICE OF YOU.
NAH, ANYONE WOULD DO THE SAME...

BUT, THE THING IS... I LENT MY UMBRELLA TO A COL-LEAGUE...
AND I ENDED UP USING YOURS AGAIN...

SORRY TO SUDDENLY BARGE IN ON YOU. I DIDN'T GET YOUR NUMBER...
NO? WELL, I'M GLAD I WAS HERE!
COME IN!

HMM...
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? IT ISN'T GOING TO STOP RAINING.

CAN I BORROW YOURS AGAIN?
I PROMISE I'LL BRING IT BACK...
THAT'S... SILLY... ISN'T IT?
BUMP!
REALLY? THANKS!
NO, IT ISN'T!
I LOVE CREAM PUFFS!
OH!
DO YOU LIKE CREAM PUFFS?
MAYBE IT'S WEIRD TO SAY IT'S A WAY TO THANK YOU... FOR THE OTHER DAY...
WANNA JOIN ME FOR A SNACK?
...AND, UM...

usic
TIVAL
lassical
music
ESTIVAL
TEA
...HUH?
I WAS WORRIED.
YOU DIDN'T LOOK TOO WELL AS YOU WERE LEAVING THE OTHER DAY.
YUM!
TOUCHED
HEHE!
SO, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE AGAIN.

BUT, THANKS TO YOU, I HARDLY EVER HAVE TIME NOW TO THINK ABOUT THE PAST.
...THAT DAY...
I PRACTICALLY SPAT OUT MY FRUSTRATION AT YOU.
BUMP
HEY, COME ON.
I WAS GENTLE WITH YOU.
MAYBE I NEEDED SOMETHING... DRASTIC LIKE THAT.
THANKS.
YEAH, YOU WERE...

WHOA!
JUST KIDDING!♡
FWUMP!
NATSURO, YOU HAVE CREAM ON YOUR FACE.
WHERE?
OH!? I DO?
MUNCH
HEHE!
YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER NOW.

TSUYU-HIKO...
SQUISH
I DIDN'T COME HERE TODAY... TO GET INTO BED WITH YOU...
I WANTED TO HAVE A DECENT TALK WITH YOU...
BUT THE WAY WE MET...
YOU'RE SINCERE.
BUT, THEY SAY THE BEST WAY TO DEEPEN A FRIENDSHIP IS TO HAVE A HEART-ON-HEART TALK.
I THINK THAT'S HEART-TO-HEART...
...
...

SLIDE
HUH?
HERE WE GO.
WHAT!?
HUH?
TSUYU-HIKO...
SLIDE
SLIDE
HUH...?
GRAB!
CAN I KISS YOU?
LET'S DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME. OKAY?
IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT...
FWUMP
ぽすん
... OKAY.
CREAK!

KISS
I THOUGHT... YOU WERE REJECTING ME.
PANT
SUCK
HF...!
SUCK
MN...
KISS!
MM
KISS
...!
RUSTLE
I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
BUT... I WANTED TO SLOW DOWN AND GET TO KNOW YOU AS A PERSON...
AND AS YOU SAY, WE CAN CERTAINLY START TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER PHYSICALLY...
I CAN BE A LITTLE AWKWARD...

...NATSU-RO...

YOU'RE A SQUARE, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY FLEXIBLE...
AND I LIKE THAT!

FWUMP!
WHOA!

TSUYU-HIKO...
GRAB...!

KISS
KISS!

MN.
MM!
KISS!
KISS
...YOU KNOW...
YEAH?
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU'RE STRANGER.
YOU'RE A STRANGE GUY.
I... AM?
YEAH, YOU ARE.
SO...
TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOURSELF.
WE CAN EXPLORE EACH OTHER.

...!
TWITCH!
AH!
HF...
KISS
KISS
SUCK
TWITCH!
AHN!
SUCK
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING...!
I HAVEN'T EXPLORED YOU YET AT ALL.
TWITCH!
AH
AH!
TWITCH
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
NATSURO ...!
KISS
SHLIP
HEY.. THAT'S ENOUGH...!
AH!
AH...

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D BE SO MEAN...
I DAN'T!
HUH...? SORRY...
EEP!
TWITCH!
SLIDE!
IT'S HARD TO TELL WHAT YOU LIKE BECAUSE YOU LIKE IT ANYWHERE I TOUCH YOU...
ME, MEAN...?
UH-UH... I'M NOT DOING IT LIKE THAT.
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
MN!
TWITCH!
MM...?
DON'T BE MEAN... DO WHAT YOU DID THE OTHER DAY...
MN!
SLAM IT INTO ME... OVER AND OVER.
SOCH!
SOCH!
TWITCH
AH!
I SAID WE'D GO SLOW.
LICK!

HFF...
TWITCH!
RUB
SHLIP
SQCH
SQCH!
HF...
AH.
HF...
TREMBLE
KISS!
KISS
I WANT IT NOW... PLEASE...
NAT-... SURO...
TWITCH
TWITCH!
LET'S GO SLOW NEXT TIME...
TREMBLE...
TREMBLE...
...OKAY.

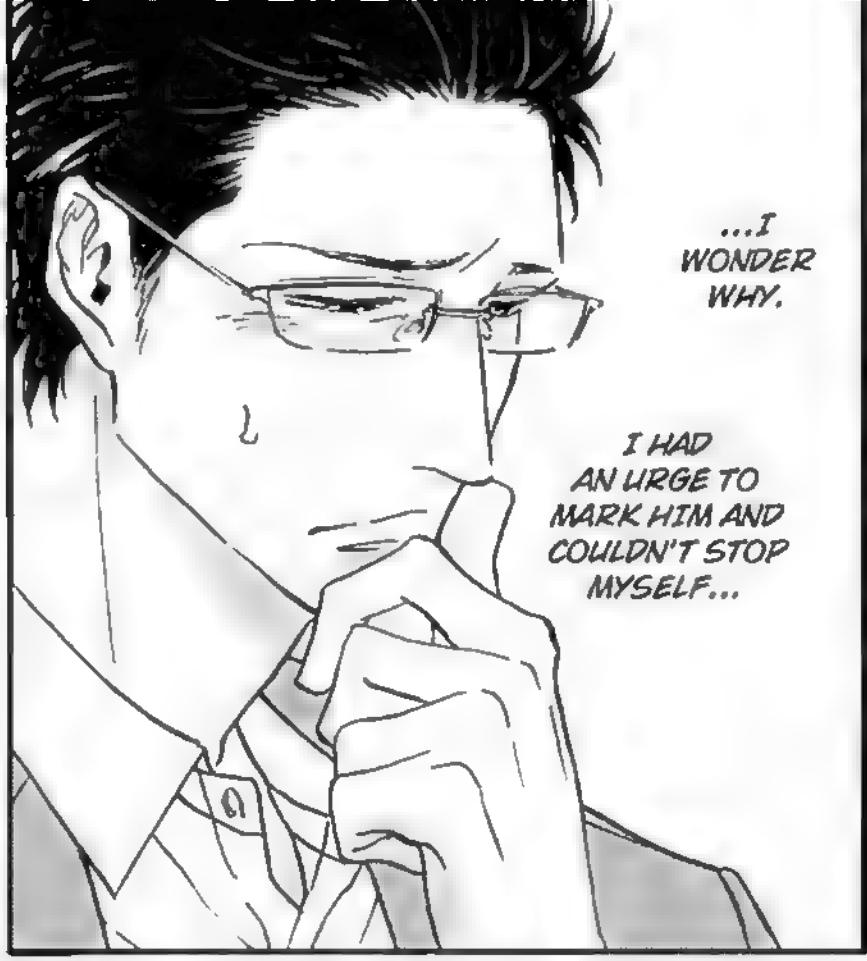
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D BE SO CUTE...
THAT'S ENOUGH DISCOVERING FOR TODAY.
HF...
HFF!
PLU-
UU-
HFF...!
AH...
HFF...
UUNGE

OH...?
DID I DO THAT AGAIN ...?
...
...
MN...
SLIDE...
KISS!
AH...
NATSURO ...?
HEY...! I JUST CAME, AND THAT TICKLES.
KISS
KISS
TWITCH!
TWITCH!

...
...
KISS

...NATSURO? LET'S DO IT AGAIN.
YOU CAN GIVE ME... AS MANY HICKIES AS YOU WANT.

PLEASE STAY BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE.
THE TRAIN IS ARRIV-ING AT PLAT-FORM TWO.


...I WONDER WHY.
I HAD AN URGE TO MARK HIM AND COULDN'T STOP MYSELF...

WE ENDED UP DOING IT AFTER ALL...
AND I GAVE HIM TOO MANY HICKIES...

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU JUST BROKE UP WITH YOUR PARTNER?
YEAH.
YOU ALREADY HAVE A NEW LOVE!? LUCKY YOU. WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

OH...?
DIDN'T YOU GO HOME LAST NIGHT...?
OH... RIGHT.
TUT-TUT.
YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES.

OH!
GOOD MORNING, NATSURO!
PROBABLY BECAUSE HE WAS CUTE...

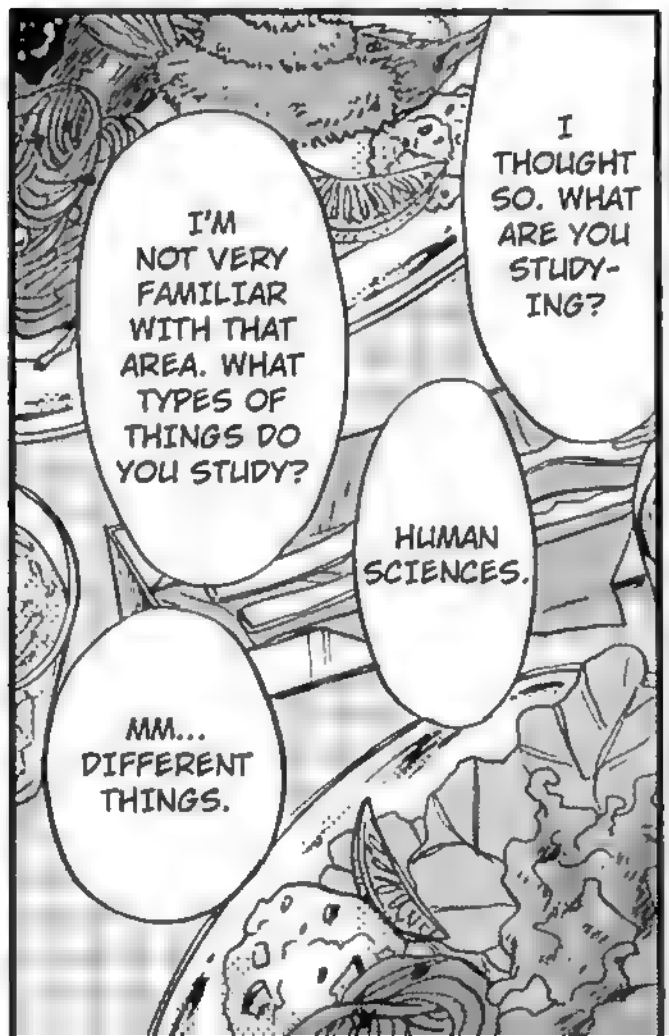
GASP!!
Y-YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANKS FOR LENDING ME YOUR UMBRELLA YESTERDAY.

LIKE A SWEET OLDER WOMAN WHO ACCEPTS YOU NO MATTER WHAT?
OR IS SHE YOUNGER?
?
WITH THIS STRANGE TYPE OF APPEAL.
WELL...
ALL INNOCENT, THEN SUDDENLY TURNING AGGRESSIVE... SOMEONE I CAN GIVE MY EVERYTHING TO...

HUH ...?
NOT... REALLY...
SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE DATING, AREN'T YOU?
WE'VE NEVER TALKED... ABOUT OUR AGES...

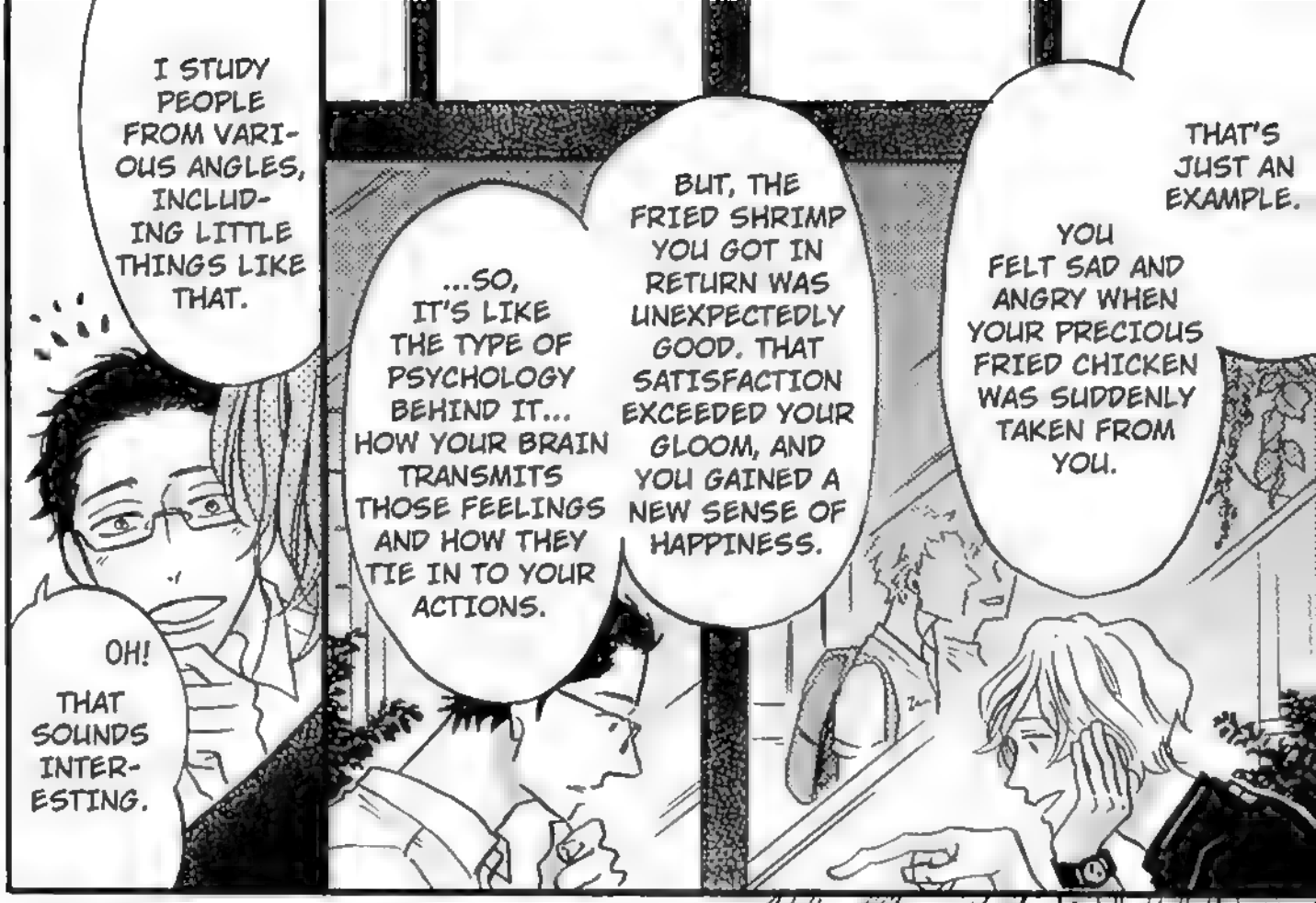
I'M SERIOUS!!
SLAP!
OW!
RIGHT.
LUCKY YOU.
WELL, WHATEVER. IT SOUNDS GOOD.
MY ONLY LOVE IS VIDEO GAMES.
NATSURO... ARE YOU A PLAYBOY...?
YOU SON OF A GUN.
OH... IT ISN'T LIKE THAT.

STEAK & GRILL
GRILL
MY AGE?
CRUNCH!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M 23.
SEE...? WE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT ANYTHING LAST TIME.
YEAH, MAYBE WE DIDN'T!


I THOUGHT SO. WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING?
I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THAT AREA. WHAT TYPES OF THINGS DO YOU STUDY?
HUMAN SCIENCES.
MM... DIFFERENT THINGS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE ALWAYS DRESSED NICE. WHAT DO YOU DO?
I'M 31, AND I WORK AT CITY HALL. SO, YOU'RE... A STUDENT?
YEAH, YOU LOOK LIKE A PUBLIC SERVANT!
YEP, I'M IN COLLEGE NOW.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO TURN IT INTO FRIED CHICKEN?
FOR EXAMPLE... I HAVE A FRIED SHRIMP HERE.
SERIOUS
THEN, I PUT YOUR CHICKEN ON MY PLATE.
FIRST... I PUT THE SHRIMP ON YOUR PLATE.
MUNCH
HEY!
FINALLY, I EAT THE FRIED CHICKEN.
A FRIED SHRIMP INTO FRIED CHICKEN ...?
AND, THE ANSWER ...
SEE? CRUNCH!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S GOOD.
THAT SHRIMP'S GOOD, TOO, YOU KNOW.
GOOD CATCH, RIGHT?
YOU SWINDLED ME WITH SHRIMP...
THAT WAS MY LAST PIECE...


I STUDY PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS ANGLES, INCLUDING LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT.
OH! THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING.
...SO, IT'S LIKE THE TYPE OF PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND IT... HOW YOUR BRAIN TRANSMITS THOSE FEELINGS AND HOW THEY TIE IN TO YOUR ACTIONS.
BUT, THE FRIED SHRIMP YOU GOT IN RETURN WAS UNEXPECTEDLY GOOD. THAT SATISFACTION EXCEEDED YOUR GLOOM, AND YOU GAINED A NEW SENSE OF HAPPINESS.
YOU FELT SAD AND ANGRY WHEN YOUR PRECIOUS FRIED CHICKEN WAS SUDDENLY TAKEN FROM YOU.
THAT'S JUST AN EXAMPLE.

UH-HUH!
I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHY HE PULLS ON MY HEARTSTRINGS IN STRANGE WAYS.
THE FRIED CHICKEN WAS GOOD, BUT SO WAS THE FRIED SHRIMP. WASN'T THAT GREAT!?

I WAS A LITTLE CARELESS DURING ETHOLOGY RESEARCH.
IT'S OKAY. IT DOESN'T HURT OR ANYTHING.
WHAT HAPPENED...? THERE'S A BRUISE ON YOUR WRIST.
IT ISN'T A MARK LEFT BY YOUR WATCH, IS IT?
...OH, THAT.
I'M REACTING JUST LIKE HIM!
...HUH?
NO? THAT'S GOOD...
THANKS...
OH!
OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU. TAKE CARE.
OKAY.
I FORGOT I MADE PLANS AFTER THIS!
SORRY. I HAVE TO GO.
OH... I SEE...
I'M LEAVING, TOO.
THUD
THUD

SEE YA!
WE'LL HAVE FUN TOGETHER NEXT TIME TO MAKE UP FOR THIS.
WHISPER
WHISPER
HEY, NATSURO.
RUB!
UNTIL NEXT TIME...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF...
I THINK I'M ALREADY... IN LOVE.
...OH, BROTHER.
...!
TOO BAD... WE COULDN'T HAVE SPENT MORE TIME TOGETHER...

SLIDE...
BZZZT!
BZZZT!
OH.
I WOULDN'T HAVE DREAMED IT A MONTH AGO...
I'M IN LOVE AGAIN SO SOON...
CREAK...!

"I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I GET OFF WORK"... THERE!
FWUMP
ぼふっ
I'LL BE THERE SOON. WAIT OUTSIDE THE CONVENIENCE STORE IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN STATION.
READ 9:03 PM
SORRY ABOUT TODAY! HOW ABOUT NEXT WEDNESDAY?
9:52 PM
THAT'S IN FIVE DAYS.
IT'S TSUYU-HIKO.
I WAS GOING TO TEXT HIM.
I HOPE WE CAN SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER NEXT TIME...
OH, I'LL HAVE TO BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...
IN CASE I'M THERE ALL NIGHT AGAIN...
...OH.
GASP!!!
I'M GETTING ALL EXCITED...
JUMP!

...!
HF...
MN.
NH!
CREAK...

MN!
HF...
MM.
SUCK
KISS!
HFF!

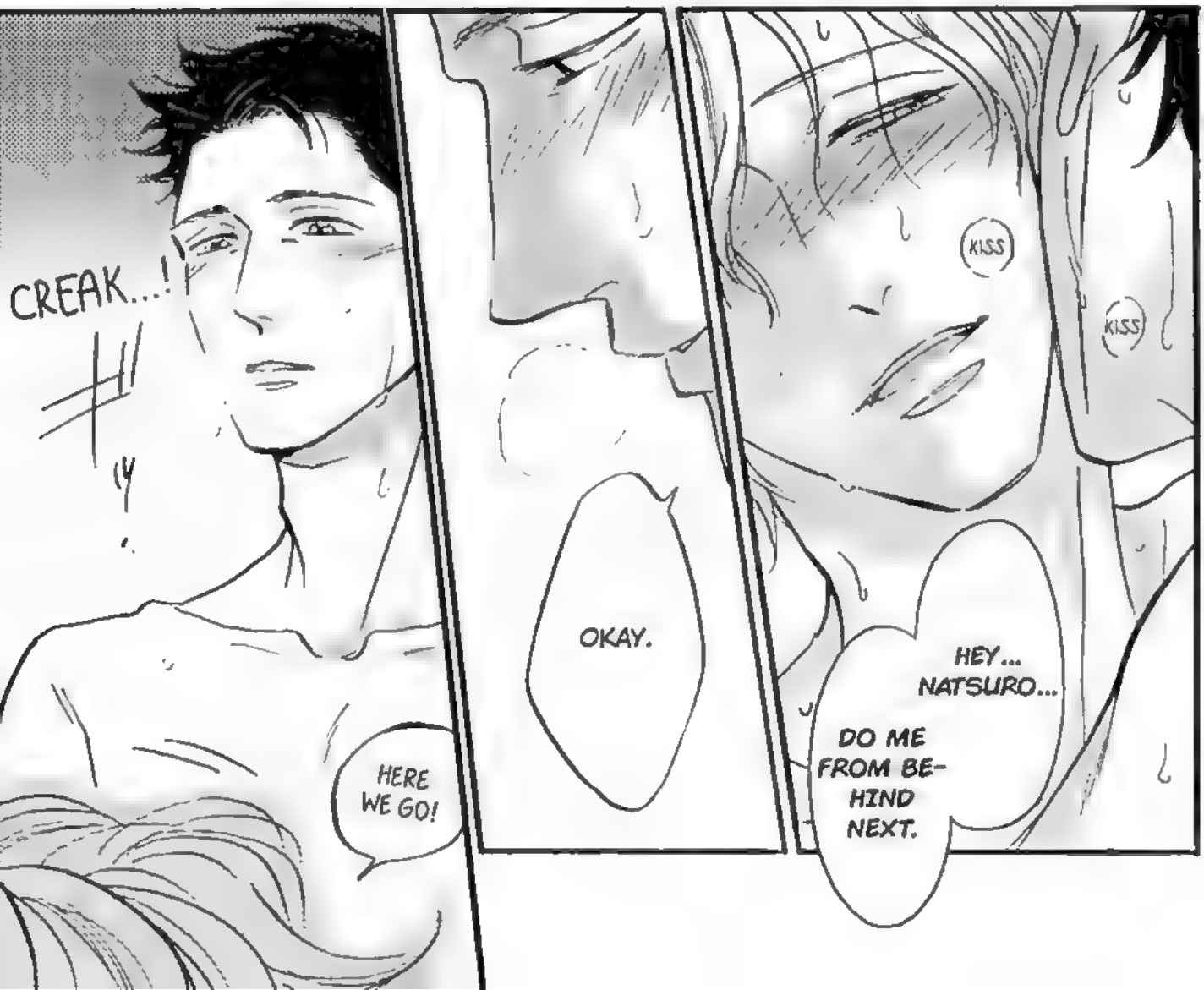
NATSURO... YOU'RE REAL PASSIONATE TODAY.
I LOVE IT.

SLIDE...
I'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE YOU SINCE THAT LAST TIME WE MET.
...I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
GRAB!
WHOA
ME, TOO!
KISS!
AAAHH!
KISS!
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA MAKE UP FOR LAST TIME?
OKAY, THEN...

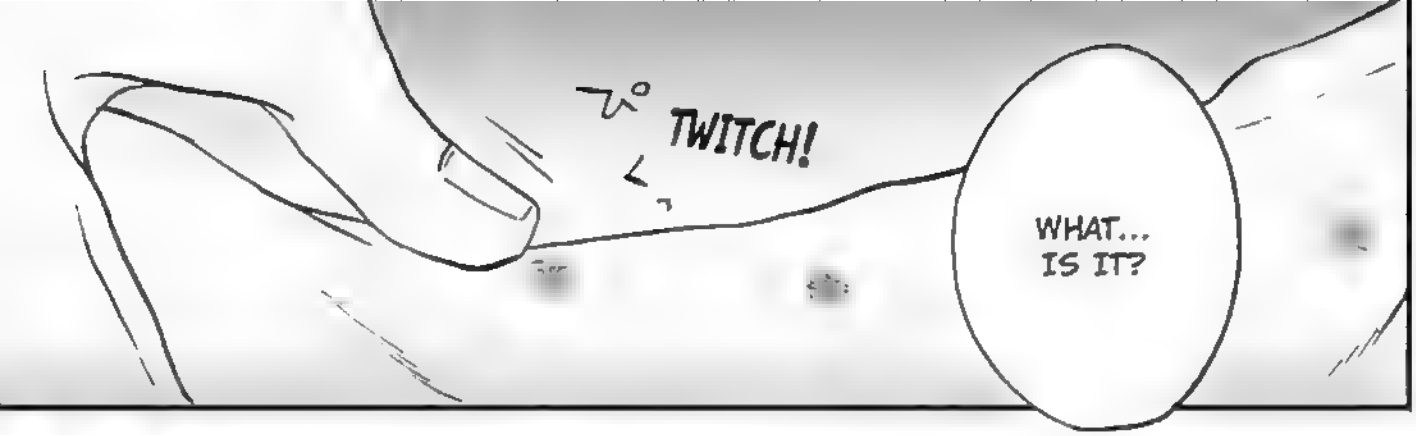
TREMBLE!
HEY... ARE WE GONNA GO SLOW TODAY...?
PUSH...
AH...
TWITCH!
HF...
KISS!
KISS
MN!
SLIDE!
NATSURO...!
WE DO THAT NEXT TIME?
HOW ABOUT...

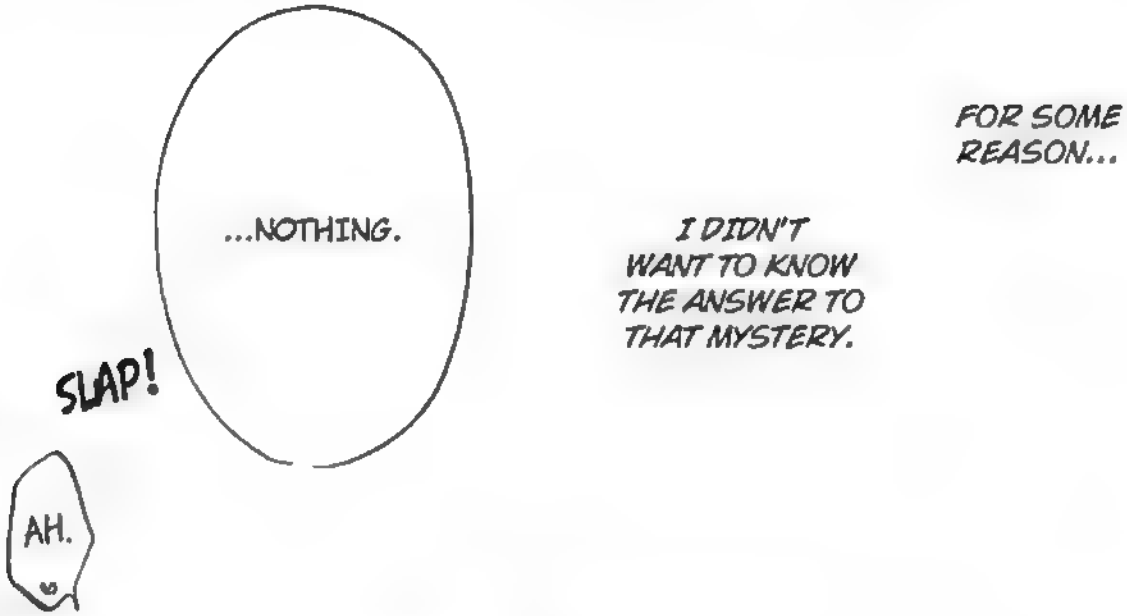
OKAY!
CREAK...!

THIS IS AMAZING...!
PANT!
AH.
PANT!
AH!
MN!
SLAP
...AH!
AH!
SLAP!
HF...
...!
SLI-
II-
YEAH...!
DE


CREAK...!
HERE WE GO!
OKAY.
KISS
KISS
HEY... NATSURO...
DO ME FROM BE-HIND NEXT.

HIS BACK... DID I GIVE HIM ALL THESE HICKIES TODAY...?
I WAS SO EAGER, I DON'T REALLY RE-MEMBER...
OH, MY...


TWITCH!
WHAT... IS IT?


...NOTHING.
SLAP!
AH.
FOR SOME REASON...
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT MYSTERY.

FSSSHHH
RAIN IS EXPECTED THROUGH THIS WEEK.
DING DONG
...THE RAINY SEASON IS EXPECTED TO START EARLY THIS YEAR, AND...

OUR DATE'S TODAY... ISN'T IT?
IS HE OUT...? DID I GET HERE TOO EARLY?
SILENCE...
しーん...
402

I SHOULDN'T GO IN WITHOUT BEING INVITED, BUT I'M JUST GOING TO SEE IF HE'S HOME...
HI, TSUYUHIKO? I'M COMING IN...
カリ
キ
ト
KER-CHAK
I HAVE... A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

IT'S UNLOCKED.
KER-CHAK!

WAIT... MAYBE HE'S SICK...
HASN'T HE NOTICED ME...?
...
...
...
...
THE LIGHT'S ON. AND THE TV...
CREAK...
SORRY, I'M COMING INSIDE.

CREAK
...THE RAINY FRONT WILL STAY OVER JAPAN THROUGH THE START OF JULY...
AND IT'S EXPECTED TO BE FAIRLY ACTIVE...
TSUYU-HIKO!?
KER-CHAK!!
カチャ

KISS!
HF...
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THUNDER-STORMS AND HEAVY RAIN.
DRIP

...AH.
...HUH?

END

AFTER THE RAIN

CHAPTER 3

...IS THIS...
SLIDE...
WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
...NATSURO?
TWITCH

ゴトッ
THUNK!
OH!
WHAT...
ARE YOU DOING?
...WHAT AM I DOING?

...WHAT?
OH, THIS IS GOH!
SO, I WAS CONSOLING HIM...
GOH SAID HIS WORK ISN'T GOING WELL AND HE'S HAVING A HARD TIME AFTER HIS GIRL LEFT HIM.

HEY...!
HUH!?
SO, I...
SLIDE...
PLUNGE
PLUNGE

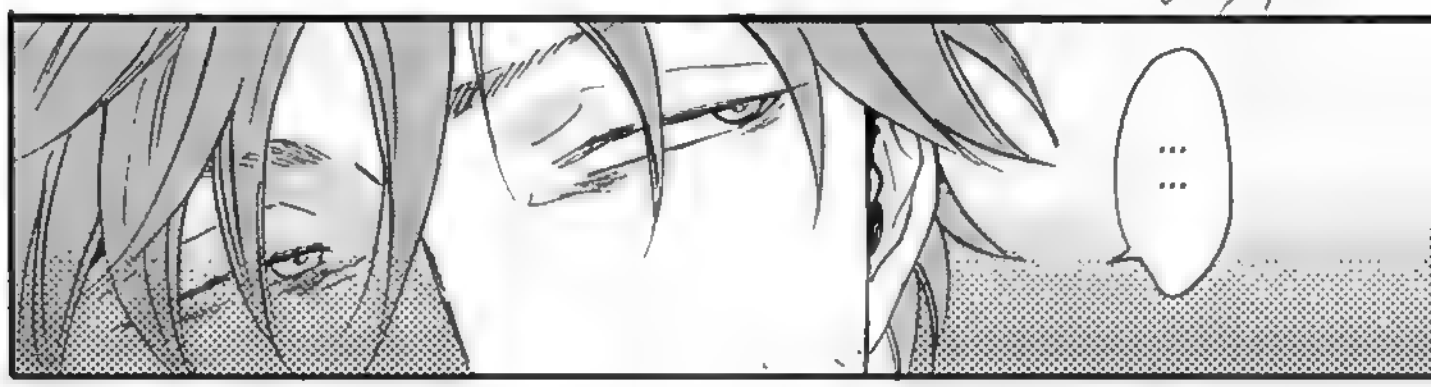
HEY, GOH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
I'M NOT A FUCKING EXHIBI-TIONIST!
STOP IT!

SLI-
...TSK!
DE

HUH...?

...DO YOU ENJOY...
MUMBLE
...MAKING FUN OF ME LIKE THIS?

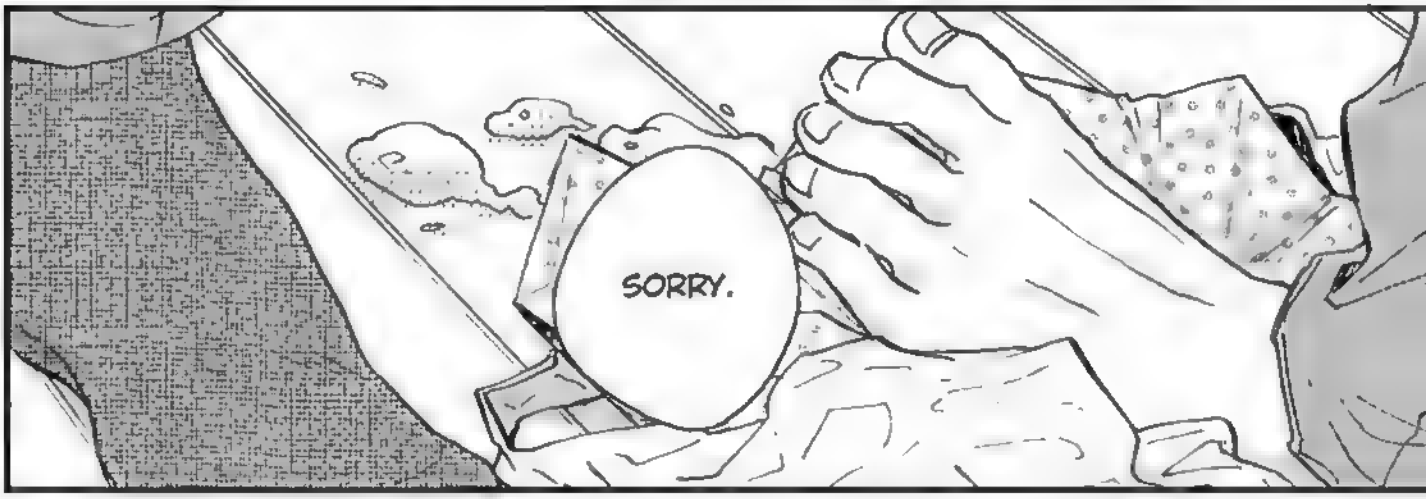
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU.


...
...

HEY, TSUYUHIKO.
IS THIS THE GUY WHO GAVE YOU THESE?
HUH?
POKE
POKE
...YEAH.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OVER? HE'S LOOSENED UP.
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
THERE GOES MY BONER.
I'M LEAVING.
NO POINT IN STAYING HERE NOW.
GLANCE!
HUH...
...!
OKAY.
NEXT TIME.

TWITCH
OH.
CRUSH


SORRY.

TSUYUHIKO SEDUCED YOU WHEN YOU WERE LONELY OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
I'VE SEEN OTHERS LIKE YOU.

OH!!
HEY, GOH...
...HEY, YOU.

HE CAN'T HELP REACHING OUT...
TO A GUY IN NEED. THAT'S ALL.

RING A BELL?
WHISPER

HAVE FUN.
TAP!
OKAY.

NATSURO!
P-TIMP
SORRY. YOU BOUGHT THOSE FOR ME, RIGHT?

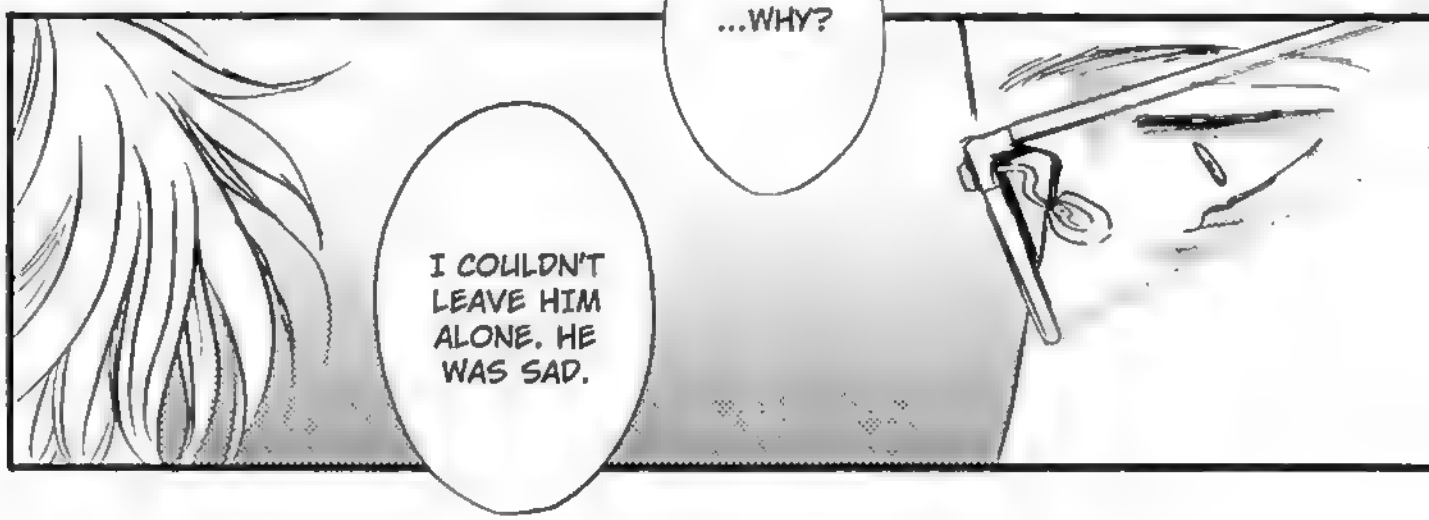
...WE WEREN'T DATING TO BEGIN WITH...
AND I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY ANYTHING TO HIM, BUT...

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

HUH?
WHO WAS IN LOVE.
I GUESS I WAS THE ONLY ONE...
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I LOVE THE MOST NOW.
...HUH?
...WHAT?
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
...AND, NATSU-RO...

SST!
...NO.
NEVER MIND.
STOP RIGHT THERE.
TH-... THEN, WHY WERE YOU WITH THAT GUY...?
...!

I'M GOING TO BE TOO MISERABLE IF I DON'T.

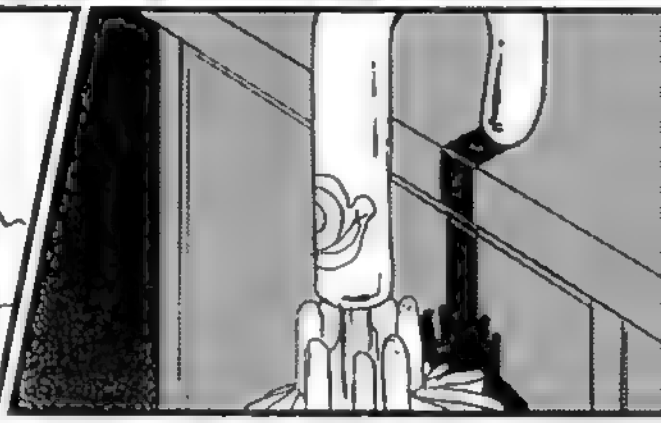

...WHY?
I COULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE. HE WAS SAD.

YOU WERE LIKE THAT AT THE BEGINNING, TOO.
ANYONE WOULD WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU...
IF THEY SAW YOU LOOKING LIKE YOU WERE ABOUT TO CRY.
YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER NOW.
AND, IT'S MADE ME HAPPY.
SLIDE

SLAP!

...HUH?
I GOT CARRIED AWAY AND MISUNDERSTOOD THINGS...
AND I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

BYE.



CREAK...
P-TMP

NATSURO... HE LOOKED SO SAD...
...BUT I'M NOT HARD.
RUB...
SST
HE'S GONE HOME...
AND IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO BREATHE...
...WHY?
FSSSHHH...

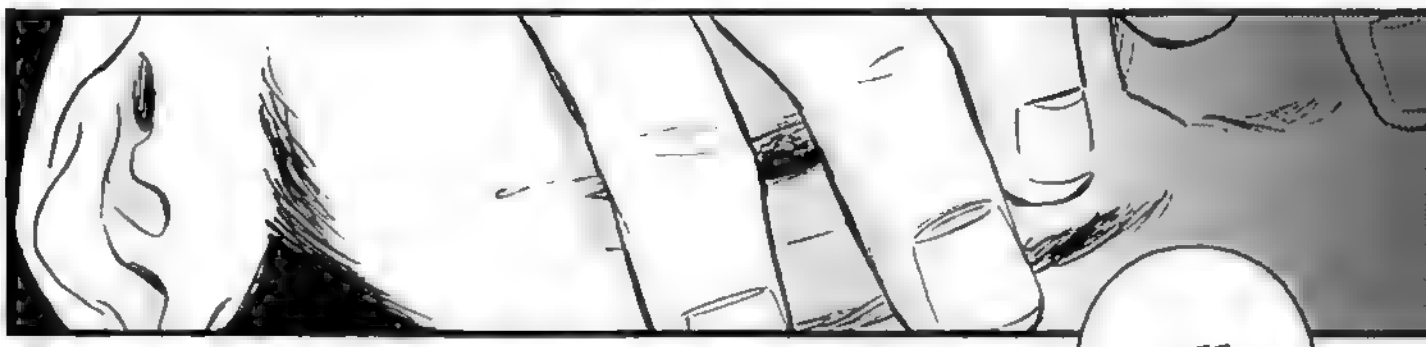
BZZZT!
BZZZT!

WHAT I MEANT TO TSUYUHIKO.
I WONDER...
P-TMP!

I'M SORRY. I THINK I MADE YOU MAD.

ROLL!
HE FELT SORRY FOR ME...
...IS THAT ALL IT WAS...?
AS FOR ME...
KISS
SIGH ...
CREAK!
... ...
I FELL DEEPER AND DEEPER IN LOVE WITH HIM...

...I COULD HAVE SWORN...
IT WAS THE SAME FOR HIM.



...IF ONLY...
I COULD'VE REALIZED IT SOONER...
FSSS-
SSHH

NAT-... SU-... RO...!
NATSURO!
HEY, NATSURO!
DAZED
YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT LATELY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
UH... RIGHT.
OH...
SORRY... ABOUT THAT.
OW!
YOU PUT THIS FILE AWAY IN THE WRONG CABINET.
BANG!
I KNOW THAT. I'M NOT GONNA FORCE YOU TO DRINK.
WELL... OKAY.
HE JUST WANTS TO DRINK AND LAUGH AT ME...
OH... THANKS, BUT I'M NOT MUCH OF A DRINKER...
YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT OVER DRINKS TONIGHT.
SOME-THING HAPPEN WITH THAT GIRL YOU'RE SEEING?

IT'S MY FAULT FOR JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT...
IT LOOKS SERIOUS...
WHY DID IT COME TO THIS?
...JEEZ.

MAYBE IT'S BEST TO SAY GOODBYE BEFORE THINGS GOT COMPLICATED.
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU TWO HADN'T STARTED DATING.

YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE!
MUGINO?
IT'S SUGINO.
THANKS, SAGANO...

A GIRL LIKE THAT WOULD BE TOUGH TO MANAGE IN THE LONG RUN.
WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY...?

JUST FORGET HER.

...YEAH...
BUT...
HOW CAN I TELL IF THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO...?
I STILL WANT TO SEE HIM.
I KEEP COMING UP WITH CONVENIENT EXCUSES. LIKE, MAYBE THERE WAS A REASON FOR WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT GUY.
...CAN YOU REALLY MANAGE TO GET HOME ON YOUR OWN?
YEP. GOOD NIGHT.
OKAY, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
YEAH?
HE DOESN'T LOOK FINE...
I'M FINE.

OR THE LOVE THAT TSUYUHIKO SAID HE FELT FOR ME...

OR WHO THAT GUY IS. HE LOOKED MUCH CLOSER TO HIM THAN I AM...

...I DON'T GET ANY OF IT.

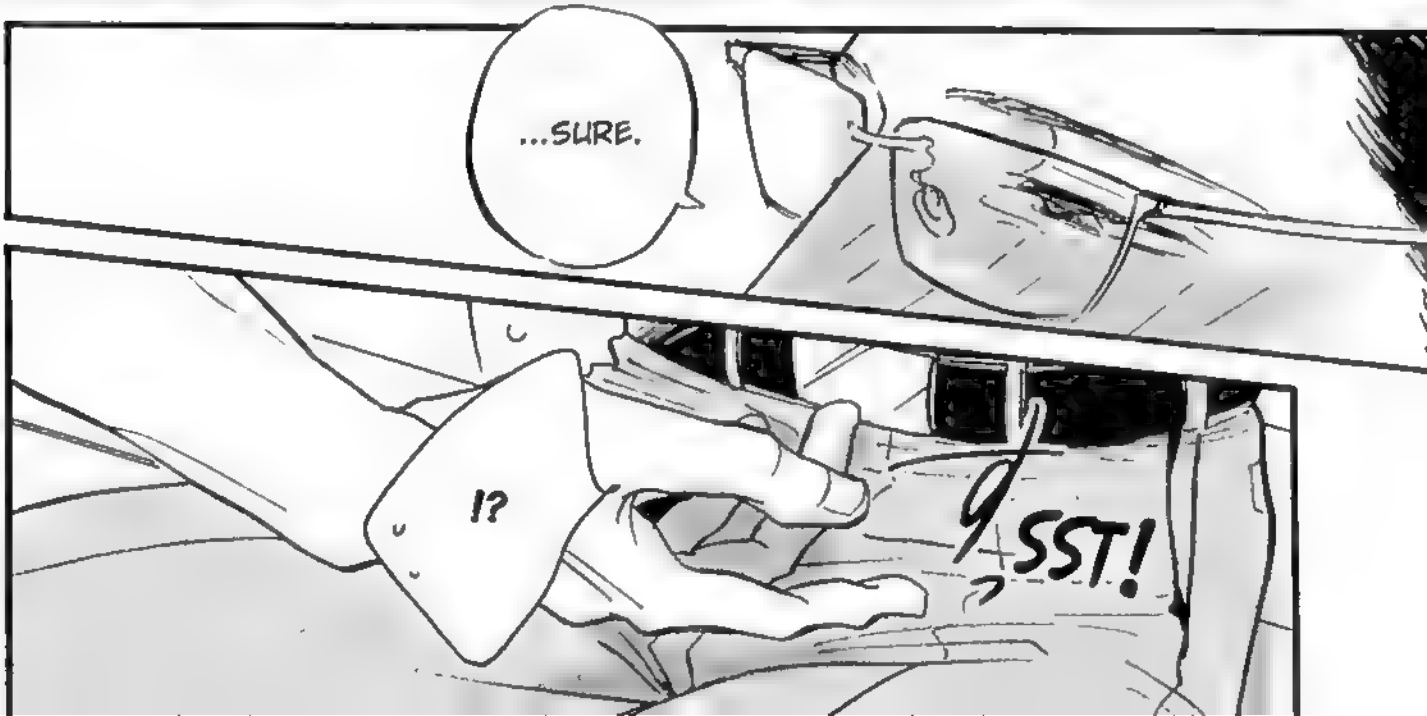
SLIDE...
NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE...
SLUMP...
...I WISH I COULD FORGET...
ALL OF IT...
...MAYBE ANOTHER DRASTIC TREATMENT LIKE HE GAVE ME BEFORE...
WOULD LET ME FORGET ABOUT HIM...

NOT THAT I EVER WANTED TO COME BACK HERE...
SO, HERE I AM AGAIN.
...BUT...
UH...
HI.
...FOR SOME REASON ...
NONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED HERE SEEM LIKE A MISTAKE...

HE LOOKS HONEST AND CLEAN-CUT.
OH... SURE.
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
YOU WERE LOOKING A BIT DOWN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
BUT... IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING AT ALL.
OH... THIS AND THAT, I GUESS...
I'M GUESSING YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO DRINK AWAY YOUR SORROWS.
HAHA...!
...REALLY...?
...
...!

I'LL LET YOU FORGET EVERYTHING.
I CAN HELP.

"AFTER WE DO THIS, YOU— KNOW?"
"SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE FOR YOU"...


...SURE.
!?
SST!

I'M ALL SET. YOU JUST STAY STILL, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
HUH...? HERE?
IT'S DARK, AND NO ONE'S LOOKING.
KISS
...
...
KISS
CLINK
...
SORRY.
SLIDE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...
...!
I DON'T THINK I CAN DO THIS...
GRIP...!
!?

HUH?
STARTING TO SOBER UP, SORE-EYES?
YOU AREN'T MY TYPE, BUT YOU LOOKED EASY. THAT'S WHY I'M BEING NICE.
WHY'RE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
AH! IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
RUSTLE
DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A CHOICE, BUSTER.
UGH...!
GRAB!

IT'S OKAY. DON'T BE SCARED...
I'LL MAKE IT GOOD FOR YOU.
CRACK!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS TO KEEP YOU QUIET.
STOP IT...
OKAY. SAY AHH♡
OPEN!
AH...
HEY, UH...
NGH...

DO YOU MIND GETTING OUT OF THE WAY?
I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET THIS GUY HERE.
TSK...!

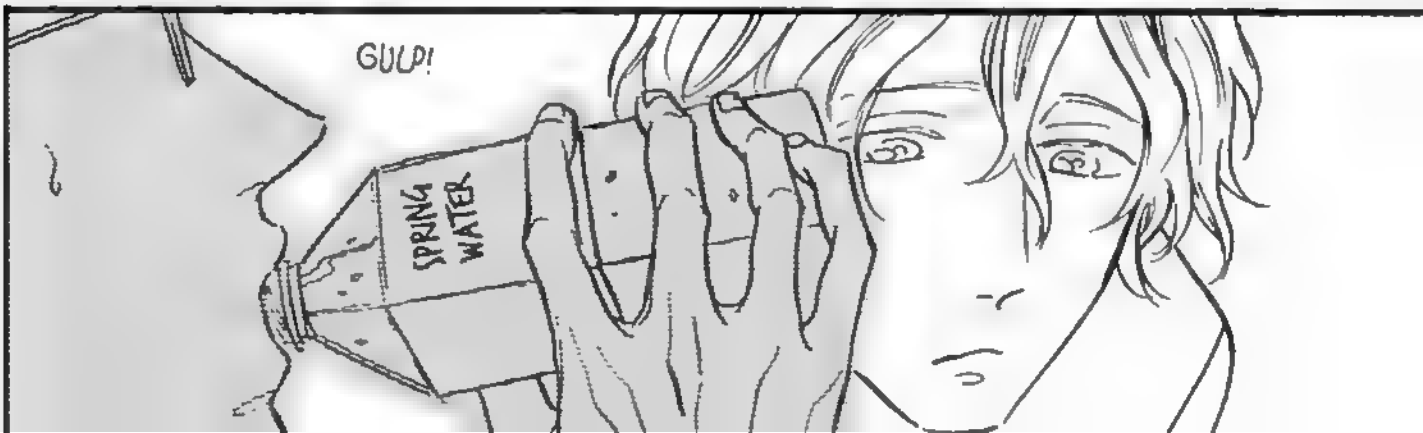
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, NATSURO!

WHY IS HE ALWAYS THIS WAY...?
UH, RIGHT... THANKS.
I TOLD YOU YOU'D GET PICKED UP BY SOME NASTY GUY IF YOU SAT HERE WITH THAT SPACED-OUT EXPRES-SION!
...UH...
TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT BEING CAUGHT HERE BY A NASTY GUY...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
HUH!? WHAT THE HECK?
DARN, I WASN'T PLANNING TO EVER SEE HIM AGAIN...
I'M GLAD I WENT TO A CON-VENIENCE STORE.
HERE.
SPRING WATER
THANKS...
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WORK KEPT YOU SO BUSY YOU LEFT MY TEXTS ON READ?

...LET ME ASK YOU THIS.
ARE YOU FEELING PITY FOR ME NOW...
FINDING ME IN THIS SORRY STATE AFTER I SAW YOU WITH THAT GUY?
LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE MET...?

SORRY... NEVER MIND.
THAT WAS CHILDISH OF ME.

HUH!?
...!


GULP!
SPRING WATER

BUT, THAT'S NOT ALL.
I GET SO AROUSED I CAN BARELY CONTROL MYSELF.

THE OTHER DAY...
I SAID I COULDN'T LEAVE A PERSON ALONE WHEN I FELT SORRY FOR THEM.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT ONCE I GET THAT WAY.

I'M SICK, AREN'T I...!?
HAHAHA!

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE... SICK.
HEHE!
I KNEW YOU WERE NICE, NATSURO.
B-DMP

YEAH. I CAN'T STOP MYSELF AND I CAN'T SAY NO.
ARE YOU SAYING EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN DOING, IT'S ALL BEEN IMPULSE...?
WAIT A SEC...

OH. UH... UM...
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE...
?

PUSH!
BUT, THAT'S NOT ALL.
I LIKE YOU.

WITH GOH... I DON'T LOVE HIM OR ANYTHING.
HUH...?
HMM...
YOU, UH...
YOU HAVE THAT GUY.
FROM THE OTHER DAY...
GOH?
BUT...
HE KNOWS ME.
HE UNDERSTANDS ME.
OH!
I SEE...
THROB!

IS HE ANOTHER MAN THAT I COULD NEVER COMPETE AGAINST?
...HERE I GO AGAIN.
AM I ABOUT TO REPEAT...
WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE?
GLANCE!

TWITCH
... NATSURO ...
I THINK I'LL GO HOME NOW.
...
...
!
O-OKAY...
SEE YOU.
SWISH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE!
RUSTLE...
GRAB!

UH...
HUH!?
UM...
WHAT IS IT, NATSURO?

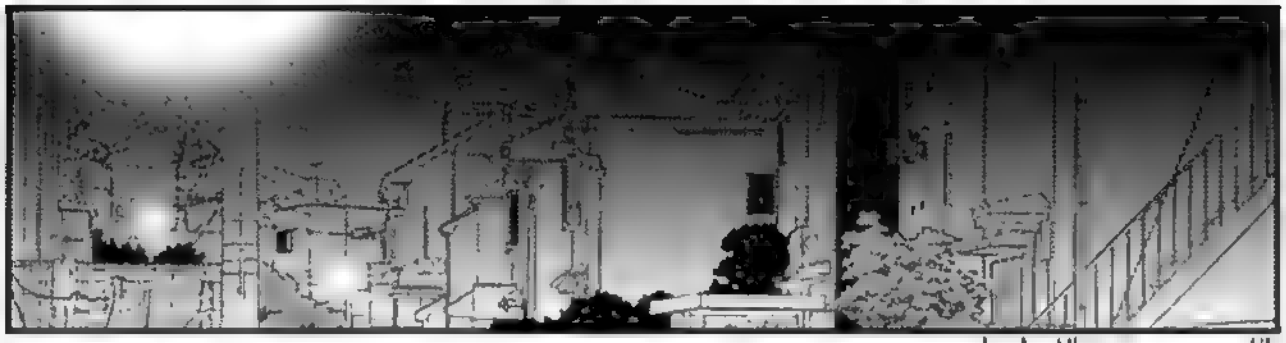
RELEASE!
...GOOD NIGHT.
QUIVER...!
...!
SEE YOU.
...
...
YEAH...

ONE WEEK

I'M NOT HIS PARTNER OR ANYTHING, AND I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT...
...IT'S WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.
BUT HE'LL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SEE MEN LIKE ME OR THAT OTHER GUY PURELY ON IMPULSE...
IT'S HARD TO UNDER-STAND HIS WAY OF THINK-ING...

WILL HE BE THAT WAY FOREVER?
I'M SICK. AREN'T I...?
IF I STOP SEEING HIM...

SQUEEZE...
WHAT ABOUT ME?
AM I JUST GOING TO GIVE UP...
ON THE RELATION-SHIP THAT'S RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME?
...
...



NATSURO REALLY IS A STRANGE GUY...

ANYONE WOULD LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M DIRT OR DESPISE ME IF THEY HEARD ME TALK LIKE THAT.
BUT, HE TRIES TO BE CONSIDERATE. HE'S TOO NICE FOR HIS OWN GOOD.

WHEN I LEFT HIM... I FELT LIKE STAYING WITH HIM A LITTLE LONGER...

WE WERE GETTING ALONG GREAT UNTIL JUST THE OTHER DAY.
CLENCH! RELEASE
CLENCH! RELEASE
I LOVE HIM. WHY DOESN'T HE GET THAT?

PLEASE LEAVE. I HAVE TO WORK ON MY REPORT.
RUSTLE
SO, DO IT.

ARE YOU STILL HERE?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SMOKE INSIDE 'CAUSE IT STINKS.
SHUT UP. THE WINDOW'S OPEN.

DING
NATSURO
THANKS FOR SEEING ME. CAN WE GET TOGETHER SOON?
CLOSE
DISPLAY
I'M TELLING YOU I WANT YOU TO GO.
...HIM AGAIN? DOESN'T HE EVER GIVE UP?
END

AFTER
THE
RAIN

MAYBE HE'D THINK...

CHAPTER 4

AFTER THE RAIN

CHAPTER 4

HEY, TSUYU-HIKO.
...
NATSURO! THANKS FOR WAITING!
THANKS FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
NO PROBLEM. I WANTED TO COME.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE YOUR PLACE.
IT'S JUST AN AVERAGE APARTMENT.
HUH...?
I'M GLAD...
I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
... WELL...
IT'S TRUE THAT I WASN'T PLANNING TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

SPLASH BILBY
ROMANCE
THE THREE L
DA!
THAT IS, UNTIL THE OTHER DAY.
HUH!?

I THOUGHT WE COULD PLAY THEM TODAY.
THEY'RE ALL OLDIES BUT GOODIES.
...WHAT'RE THESE?

REALLY?
SURE! LET'S DO IT!
I DON'T REALLY PLAY MUCH, THOUGH.
FWUMP!

WHY DON'T WE PLAY GAMES AND RELAX HERE NOW AND THEN?
WE CAN WATCH A DVD IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT...

HUH?
I DON'T HAVE THAT MANY, SO I WENT OUT AND BORROWED SOME...
I USED TO PLAY THEM TO KILL TIME.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO GAMES!
WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT TO PLAY? I HAVE A BUNCH...
LET'S PLAY THIS. MY SISTER USED TO LIKE THESE.
HEARTFLUTTERING MEMORIES
I RECOMMEND IT!
DAMN IT, SUGINO! WHAT DID HE LEND ME...!?
S-... SOMEONE LEFT THAT HERE...
OH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE.
I'M SO SORRY...
YOU HAVE A SISTER?
YEAH, BUT SHE DIED.
...
...
CLICK
CLICK

WELL...
I THINK THIS IS A NORMAL REACTION.
IS IT...?
FWUMP!
...I KNEW IT.
I KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT HIM TO UNDER-STAND HIM.
RIKA
YOU CAME TO OUR DATE WITH ANOTHER GIRL..? YOU'RE THE WORST!!!
HUH!? WHAT'S SHE MAD ABOUT?

GIRLS ALWAYS USED TO ASK ME OUT, BUT THEY WOULD DUMP ME RIGHT AWAY.
THEY SAID I WAS NICE, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIGURE ME OUT.
ISN'T THAT CRUEL?
I CAN RELATE WITH THEM...

BUT, IT'S NOT NICE TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND...

HUH?
...WERE YOU LIKE THIS CHARACTER WHEN YOU WERE DATING BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL?
YEAH.

I PANICKED A BIT SINCE IT HAPPENED AT THE SAME TIME!

THEN, ONE DAY, I REALIZED I WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS...
AND I ALSO REALIZED I WAS INTERESTED IN GUYS...

HAVE YOU BEEN DATING GUYS YOU FELT SORRY FOR EVER SINCE THEN...?
...TSUYUHIKO...

YEAH, SORT OF.
LIKE THIS POOR GUY WHO GETS DUMPED BY THE GIRL IN THIS GAME.
...
...!

I WOULDN'T EXACTLY CALL THAT "DATING."
...TSUYU-HIKO...
LISTEN...
IN MY OPINION, TO DATE SOME-ONE IS TO BECOME THEIR PART-NER...
AND THAT PARTNER IS IN A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ONLY THAT PERSON.
HUH? REALLY ...?
GRIP...!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
IT MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE FORMAL, BUT...
...OKAY.

UNLIKE FRIENDS, YOU EXPERIENCE INTENSE EMOTIONS...
AND YOU ALSO BECOME RESPONSIBLE TOWARD THE OTHER PERSON.
I THINK IT'S WHERE YOU SHOW THAT YOU LOVE THEM AND ARE WILLING TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
...SO...
RATHER THAN BEING INVOLVED WITH A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME OR ACTING ON IMPULSE...
YOU'RE WITH THAT ONE PERSON ALONE, AND YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THEM.
THAT'S WHAT I FEEL IT MEANS... TO DATE SOMEONE.

I'M SORRY I DON'T GET IT.
IT'S OKAY.
THAT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN AT ONCE...
...SORRY.
HMM...
EVERYONE'S BEEN HAPPY WITH ME. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD.
...BUT, GEE...
...HUH?
HEY, NATSURO.

I DIDN'T KNOW PEOPLE REALLY DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE.
THERE WAS A SCENE IN THAT GAME WHERE THEY GO TO BED TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
ONE OF THEM SLEEPING WITH THEIR HEAD RESTING ON THE OTHER'S ARM?
THAT'S IT!
BUMP
THEN... DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT?
YOU'VE NEVER DONE THIS WITH ANYONE BEFORE?
OF COURSE NOT. THEY TAKE OFF ONCE THEY RECOVER FROM THE SEX.
...WHAT THE HELL?
IT'S HARD TO SLEEP LIKE THIS.
HAHA.
MAYBE IT IS.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
I'VE BEEN WITH FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.
...I KNOW HE ACTS ON IMPULSE.
BUT, I WONDER IF HIS RELATIONSHIPS END WHEN HE SATISFIES THE OTHER GUY...
BUT, ISN'T THAT JUST BEING CONVENIENT...
EVERYONE'S BEEN HAPPY WITH ME. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING SOMETHING GOOD.
FOR THE OTHER GUY...?
BEFORE HE CAN START TO DEVELOP FEELINGS FOR THEM...
RUFFLE...
NATSURO...

AREN'T WE GONNA DO IT?
NO.
...HUH!? WHY NOT?
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
...YEAH. BUT, WE AREN'T DOING IT...
BECAUSE I'M NOT YOUR BOYFRIEND.
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

PEOPLE DON'T HAVE SEX THAT EASILY IF THEY AREN'T DATING.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PURELY PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP...
IT ISN'T JUST PHYSICAL...!
GRAB...!
BUT YOU SAVED ME, THEN I GOT MORE AND MORE ATTRACTED TO YOU, AND NOW I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH...
WE MAY HAVE STARTED OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT...
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT JUST A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU.

BUT... WE SHOULD ONLY HOLD HANDS, GO ON DATES...
HOLD EACH OTHER AND KISS EACH OTHER IF WE HAVE AN EMOTIONAL BOND.
TO BE HONEST, I WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
...IT ISN'T RIGHT...
TO SLEEP WITH ANYONE WHO COMES ALONG BECAUSE YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.
AND, MORE THAN ANYTHING...
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU LIKE THAT.

I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE MORE, AND I WANT TO SEE YOU WHEN YOU'RE FEELING SEXY.
BUT... I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU SAD...
AND I WANT TO PROTECT YOU FROM BAD EXPE-RIENCES...
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU...

...OKAY.
!
SST...

I LOVE YOU.
THAT'S WHY I WANT US TO SEE EYE-TO-EYE AND HAVE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE REALLY FEELING.

PUSH...
...TSUYU-HIKO...

SIMPLY TOUCHING YOU...
LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH...
...!
TWITCH!
SLIDE...

YOU'RE DEAR TO ME WHEN YOU'RE IN MY ARMS.
I'M HAPPY TO BE WITH THE PERSON THAT I LOVE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, TSUYUHI-KO?
DO YOU LIKE BEING WITH ME?
ARE YOU HAPPY?
...YEAH.
THAT'S THE FIRST STEP IN LOVING SOMEONE...
SO I WANT YOU TO CHER-ISH THAT FEELING.

I SPENT TIME WITH HIM WHEN I WASN'T WORKING...

AND I CONTINUED TO TELL HIM HOW I FELT. BUT...

BZZZT!

BZZZT

P-TMP

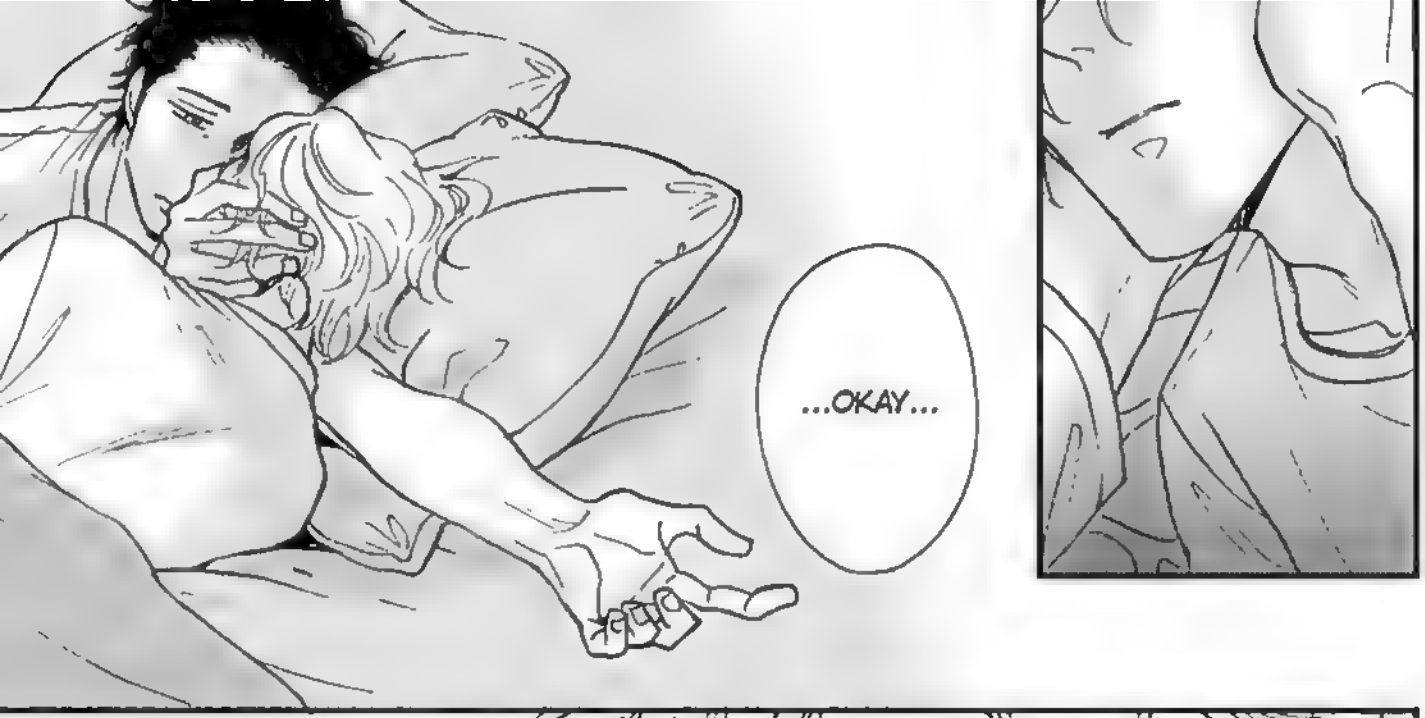
...I UNDER-STAND WHAT HE'S SAYING...

BUT I CAN'T REALLY TELL WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS FROM MY KIND OF LOVE...

WE MAY TRY TO UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER OVER-NIGHT...

TSK!?

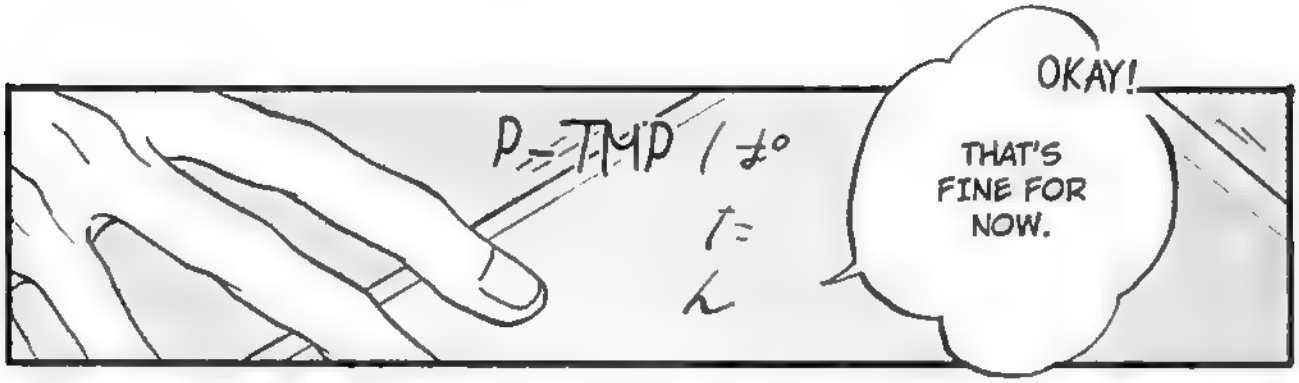
HE ISN'T AN-SWERING AGAIN...


...OKAY...

IF YOU SAY SO...

CLENCH!
...AND SO...
HE GETS IT...
MAYBE.
OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS...

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
BUT FIXED VALUES CREATE A FORMIDABLE WALL...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
..JEEZ.
TIME SEEMS TO GO BY SO QUICKLY...
AND THAT WALL ISN'T EASY TO TEAR DOWN.
THE SUSPECT'S DEVOTION


OKAY!
THAT'S FINE FOR NOW.

ZZZ...
...HE'S ASLEEP.

NATSU-RO...
I HIT A GOOD STOPPING POINT ON MY REPORT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO...

...OH.

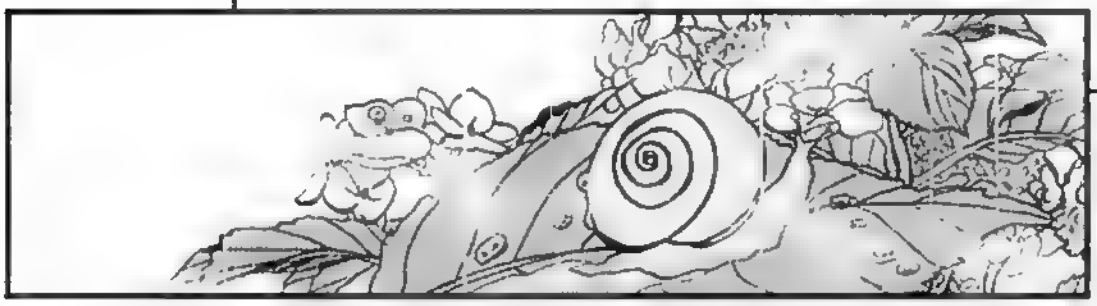
RAINY DAYS DO SEEM TO MAKE YOU SLEEPY.
WOULD HE WAKE UP IF I TOOK OFF HIS GLASSES...?

RUSTLE!
THAT GAME...
I'LL PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
...OH.
HE'S SLEEPING SO PEACEFULLY, I DON'T WANT TO WAKE HIM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
DRIP
DRIP
HUH ...?
I HAVE A DATE WITH RIKA TODAY. BUT YUNO SAYS SHE'S LONELY AND WANTS TO SEE ME...
HOW COULD HE IGNORE HER...?
THE ANSWER'S OBVIOUS.
PING
PING
- BLOW BOTH OF THE
- IGNORE YUNO AND SEE RIK
- SEE YUNO AND THEN GO ON MY DA
...
...

PING!
BLOW BOTH OF THEM OFF AND STAY
IGNORE YUNO AND SEE RIKA
SEE YUNO AND TH
ON MY DATE
TAP!
...MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HE SHOULD DO.
OH! HERE WE GO.
I'VE BEEN REALLY EXCITED ABOUT OUR DATE TODAY AND GOT HERE AN HOUR EARLY.
GOOD MORNING!
ZZZ...
すかー
MMM...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SHIT... DID I WAKE HIM?
NATSURO...
OH!
ZZZ...
MAYBE NOT.

CREEP...
CREAK...!
"I THINK THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS... TO DATE SOMEONE."
"YOU'RE WITH THAT ONE PERSON ALONE AND YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THEM."
THIS MUST BE WHAT HE MEANT.
MUMBLE

RUFFLE!
ZZZ...
!
GRAB!
HEH!
IT IS HARD TO SLEEP LIKE THIS.



"I'LL COME AND SEE YOU AS SOON AS I SUBMIT MY REPORT AND DO SOME COURSE STUFF"...
AND, SEND.
PING!

READ 5:09 P.M.
I HAVE STUFF TO DO AT SCHOOL AND MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TOMORROW. SORRY
NO PROBLEM! I'LL SEE YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
PING!

...
I'M GETTING SICK OF THIS.
DON'T MAKE ME KEEP TELLING YOU NOT TO COME HERE.
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR NOT BEING HOME.
YOU'RE BOTHERING THE NEIGHBORS.
KER-CHAK
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
WITH THAT FACE OF YOURS...
...DON'T BE SO COLD...

COME ON, TSUYUHIKO...
PLEASE...
...!
ギュッ
SQUEEZE...!
...PLEASE LEAVE.
FIZZLE!
FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO COMFORT YOU...

CLATTER
I'LL HANDLE IT MYSELF...
HEY!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
!
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU'RE HARD.
RUSTLE!
I'VE BEEN WAITING...
ALL THIS TIME FOR YOU...
DON'T...
TSK!
GRR!

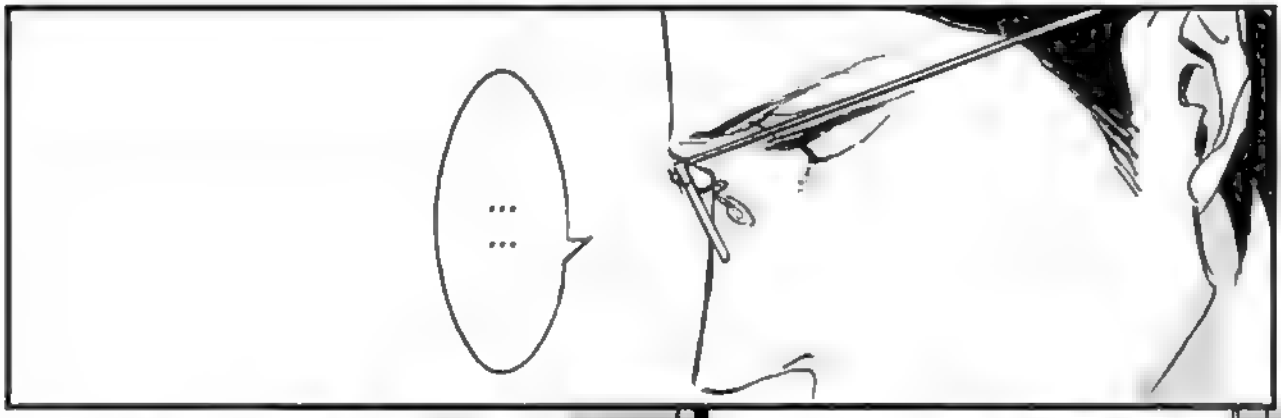
COMFORT ME LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO...!
JOLT!
BITE!
STOP IT!!
SLCH
SLCH
NO.
DON'T!
...AH!
TREMBLE...!
...!
SPLURT
SPLURT
...!
HF...!
HFF...!
...HF!
HFF...!

SLIDE...
LET'S TAKE THIS...
INSIDE.
THAT UMBRELLA... I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT ANYMORE.
...HOW CAN I EVER LOAN IT OUT...
TO NATSURO NOW...?
TSUYUHIKO!?

NATSURO... LOOK AT THAT BED HEAD. HEHE!
YEAH.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET... IN TWO DAYS, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN UMBRELLA WITH YOU...
OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME ANYTIME, BUT...
BUT, I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
CAN I COME IN?
B-DMP
HUH...?
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.
HEHE!
GOOD.
I MISSED YOU.

HERE'S A TOWEL AND A CHANGE OF CLOTHES ...
ALL I HAVE IS TEA...
THANKS! DON'T WORRY.
SORRY TO BARGE IN ON YOU.

OH...


...
...

CLATTER!
JUST A MINUTE.
HUH?
YOU SHOULD PUT SOME OINTMENT ON THAT.
THAT'S A PRETTY DEEP WOUND.

...THAT GUY...
SQUEEZE
DAB
DAB
...TSUYU-HIKO...
THIS MAY BE AN INDELICATE QUESTION, BUT...
YEAH?
WHEN WE WERE AT THAT PARK... YOU SAID IT WASN'T LOVE.
THEN, WHAT KIND OF FEELINGS DO YOU HAVE WHEN YOU HAVE SEX WITH HIM?
"FEEL-INGS"...?
WAS IT GOH...? HAVE YOU KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME?
HMM... I GUESS.
FAIRLY LONG.
I SEE.

HUH...? YEAH.
...IS THAT IT?
SO YOU CAN'T SAY NO, AND YOU GET EXCITED AND CAN'T STOP HIM?
YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM AND HAVE AN URGE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP HIM...

BUT, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT...
THEN DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE A GREATER ACT OF KINDNESS TO REJECT HIM?
UH...
MAYBE YOU *ARE* BEING KIND IN TRYING TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM.

... ...

...YEAH, BUT...
I LOSE CONTROL OF MY BODY...

YOU COULD PRACTICE GETTING EXCITED, EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR SOMEONE.
OKAY, THEN...
SO LET'S NOT GO THERE.
TRY TO SIMPLY ACCEPT MY EMOTIONS, OKAY?
YOU MUST KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT THE MECHANISMS OF HUMAN EMOTIONS THAN I DO...
..."PRAC-TICE"?
YEP.
BECAUSE, TSUYUHIKO...
I WANT TO UNDER-STAND YOU.

...RATHER THAN A ONE-SIDED AFFAIR...
LIKE WITH HIM...
AH...
KISS
THAT'S... WHERE YOU USED THAT OINTMENT.
!
YOU'LL GET IT IN YOUR MOUTH.
...IT'S OKAY.
I'LL RUB MORE ON AGAIN LATER.

NATSURO...
HUH...?
ドキ
B-DMP

OH...
HUH...?
TUG!
SQUEEZE
PULL...!
SST!
TSUYUHIKO...
NUZZLE...

...NATSU-RO?
...!
RUB
TWITCH
...
...
PANT...
MN...
KISS...
SUDE...
YEAH.
THIS WAS TO PRACTICE GETTING EXCITED FOR SOME OTHER REASON, RIGHT...?
YOU SAID...
FWUMP
...BUT...
WHAT IS THIS...?
HE HASN'T TOUCHED ME WHERE I'M SENSITIVE OR ANYTHING...
OKAY...
FIDGET!

HUH...?
LET'S GO ALL THE WAY...
I THINK WE CAN STOP HERE FOR TODAY.
SQUEEZE
WE CAN DO THAT AFTER WE REALLY BECOME A COUPLE.
...BE-SIDES...
...I DON'T WANT TO PRESSURE YOU.
BA-DUMP
OH... THAT AGAIN...
MY HEART'S ALWAYS FLUTTERED IN EXCITEMENT...
...OKAY.
BUT NOW IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE CRUSHED...
END

DAZED...
TSUYUHIKO?
CHAPTER 5
LET'S TRADE.
HEHE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS THERE SOMETHING... FUNNY ABOUT THE WAY I'M EATING?
STAB!
...I WAS JUST WATCHING YOU.
HUH?
OH, OKAY...
I GUESS HE WANTED THE FRIED CHICKEN...

UNLIKE YOU, I'M YOUNG.
...YOU'LL GET OLD, TOO.
TSUYUHIKO, YOU EAT SO MUCH I CAN BARELY KEEP UP.
THAT WAS ANOTHER GREAT MEAL!
URP.
BURP
YEP.

DRIP! ぽつ
WHOA!
DRIP ぽつ
IT'S RAINING.
DRIP ぽつ
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY APPETITE FOR GOOD FOOD...

YEP. THAT'S THE ONE.

THE ONE I ALWAYS BORROWED?
I BROKE MY LAST UMBRELLA, SO CAN WE STOP SOMEWHERE AND GET A NEW ONE?

I HAVE A FOLDING UMBRELLA. IT'S SMALL... BUT WE CAN SHARE.
OKAY...
OH!

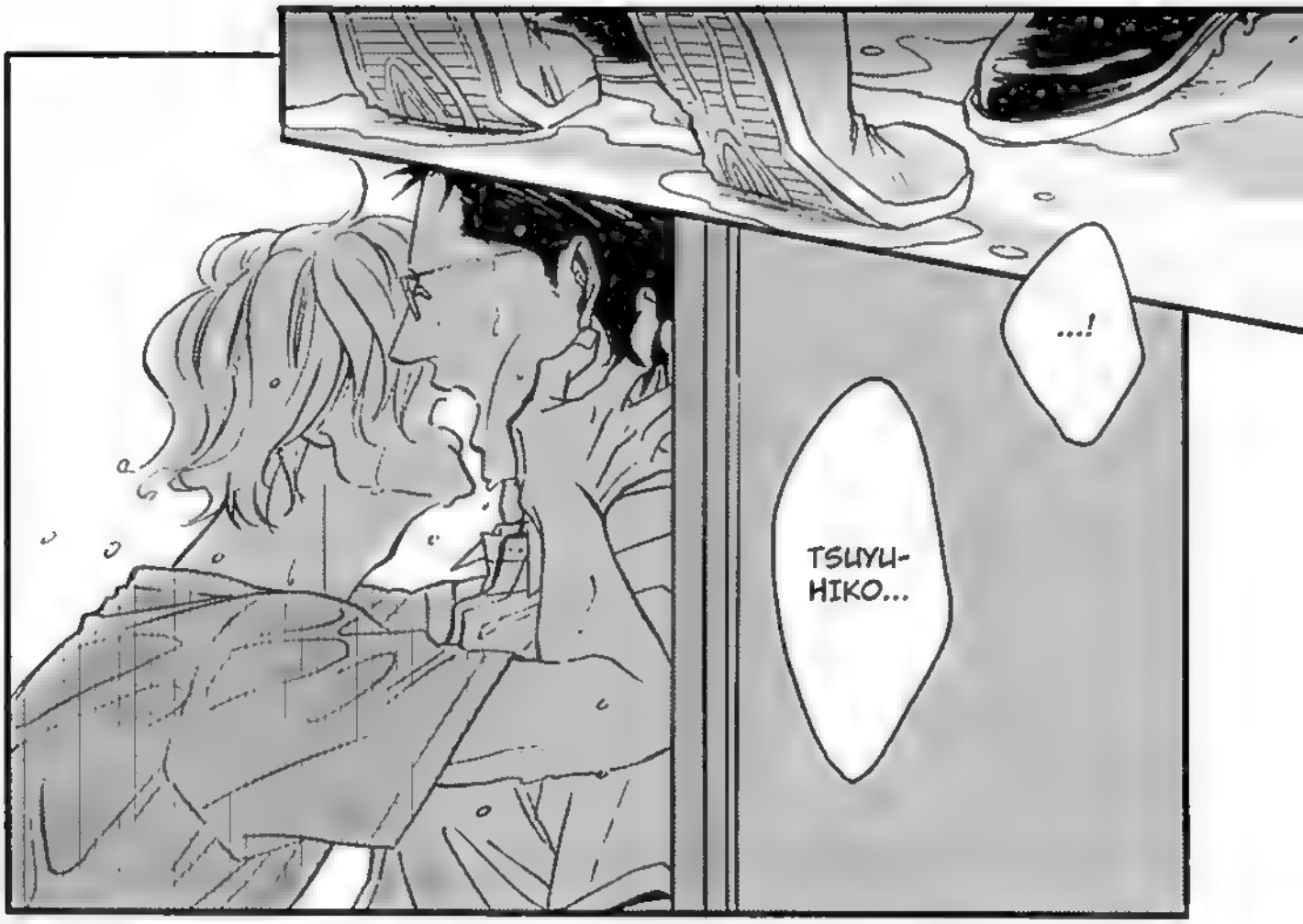
I WONDER IF THEY HAVE THE SAME UMBRELLA.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE LOST A PART OF OUR HISTORY TOGETHER...
OH...
I CAN'T USE IT ANYMORE ...
PEEK
NATSURO? WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS WHERE I BOUGHT THAT ONE.
...OH.
THIS SHOP...
HERE WE GO.

...HIROHARU.
HUMBLE
...OH.
THAT'S HIS HIRO.
LOOK AT THE WAY HE'S LOOKING AT HIM...

THUD
THUD
THUD
HUH!?
OKAY.
LET'S GO TO YOUR PLACE!
FORGET ABOUT GETTING AN UMBRELLA!
WAIT!
GRAB!
HUH!?
I DON'T RESEMBLE HIM AT ALL...
MUMBLE

OH...

COULD IT BE...?


...!
TSUYU-
HIKO...

GRAB!
...!
HF...
MN.
SUCK
KISS!
...MM.
PUSH!
MN.

HF...!
CLATTER
HF!
HF.
MN...
HF!
SLCH...
SUCK...
KISS
MN...
MM!
GULP!
HF!

HUH ...?
OH.

TSUYUHIKO.

RUFFLE
...!
SQUEEZE!

...LISTEN.
I DIDN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU LOOKED LIKE HIM.

ちゅっ
KISS
...!
...NATSURO...
I THINK... I'M A MESS.
MY HEAD, MY HEART, EVERY PART OF ME...

CREAK!
MN...!
SORRY.
I'M NOT SURE I CAN TAKE IT SLOW LIKE LAST TIME...
OKAY.

I HOPE TSUYUHIKO HASN'T GOTTEN WET AGAIN...
I'LL SEND HIM A TEXT LATER ON.
I WILL. THANK YOU.
IT'S SLIPPERY OUTSIDE. BE CAREFUL.
FSSSHHH...
NEXT, NUMBER 97. THANK YOU FOR WAIT-...
...ING.
HEY.
EXIT

PANT!
PANT...
I'M GONNA... MELT.

NATSU-RO...
...YOU'RE WARM.
FSSSHHH

6 MISSED CALLS

CREAK...!!
...MM.
...YOU OKAY?
PLU-
...!
HF...
HF... AH...!
NGE...
N-...
NATSURO...
MM...
KISS

...
NATSURO.
PANT!
PLEASE...
TODAY... I WANNA GO ALL THE WAY.
SUCK
KISS!
MN!
SQUEEZE...!
MN...
CREAK!
HF...!
SLIDE!
NGH ...!
TWITCH!

THAT'S... NOT WHAT I'M ASKING.
I SAW ONE OF YOUR TEXTS SAYING YOU WORKED HERE.
CLATTER!
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
WHY ARE YOU...
TSK!
CHATTER...
HERE...?
THUD

WHAT THE ...?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
GRAB!

LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE TO TALK.

I WAS BEING NICE TO YOU.
UH...
CHATTER
CHATTER
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING TO HIM...
YOU'RE... CAUSING TROU-BLE...
FOR THE OTHER PEOPLE HERE...!

DON'T YOU GET IT'S USE-LESS TO STRAIGHTEN HIM OUT? WHAT KINDA DUMBASS PUBLIC SERVANT ARE YOU?
"WORRY"?
WHY THE HELL WOULD I WORRY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TSUYU-HIKO.
HA!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE HIM BE? YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM.
THEN, YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT HE'S ABOUT.
THAT HABIT OF HIS IS A BUNCH OF EGOISTIC B.S. AND HIS NEED FOR SEXUAL RELEASE.
...WHY IS IT USELESS?
I CAN'T LET HIM CONTINUE TO LIVE LIKE THAT.

...YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, YOU SON OF A BITCH...
TWITCH
AND, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
WHATEVER YOU DO...
THAT GUY'S GONNA COME BACK TO ME...
BECAUSE I'M THE ONE WHO MADE HIM THAT WAY.
TO BE SATISFIED, HE NEEDS ME. HE CAN'T STAY AWAY.

...!
HEY, THERE THEY ARE!
!
SST!
... SHIT.
SO, STAY CLEAR... OF HIM...

YOU SURE? I KNOW HE DIDN'T DO ANY DAMAGE, BUT...
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE BACK.
NO... I'M NOT HURT, SO IT'S OKAY.
ARE YOU GOING TO REPORT HIM?
...
...

YOU TOOK THAT GUY OUTSIDE AND KEPT THE CONFUSION MINIMAL.
NO PROB-LEM.
THANKS.
YOU TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS FOR ME, DIDN'T YOU?

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, YOU SHOULD QUIT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY... BUT YOU'RE JUST BEING STUBBORN.
A GIRL WHO DATES A GUY LIKE THAT HAS TO BE BAD NEWS.
...BUT, THE WAY HE CAME AT YOU...
HE'S INVOLVED WITH THE GIRL YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, ISN'T HE?

ACTUALLY...

THE MORE I KNOW, THE MORE INTRIGUED I GET.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
HUH?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
DON'T GO AROUND CAUSING TROUBLE FOR NATSURO!
GRR!
COUGH!
COUGH
HEY, TSUYU-HIKO.
UGH!
WHACK

SHIVER...
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
I'M THE ONLY GUY WHO CAN SATISFY YOU.
A GUY WITH A BAD HABIT LIKE YOU HAVE?
TWITCH!
GRAB!
WHO COULD POSSIBLY STAND IT?
RIGHT?
TSUYUHIKO...

...HUH?
I SAID STOP IT!
THUD!
WIPE!
TSUYU-HIKO...

THUD
TSK!
...I'M TELLING HIM NOT TO TOUCH ME...
BUT MY BODY REACTS LIKE IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...
...NATSURO.

TSUYU-HIKO?
HI... I WAS ABOUT TO CALL YOU.
YES, I'M STILL AT WORK.
ACTUAL-LY...
WE HAD AN INCIDENT TODAY.
ARE YOU OKAY? I WANTED TO MAKE SURE...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE.

CLATTER!
WAIT!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUD-DEN ...?
IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
DON'T CONTACT ME AGAIN, OKAY?
HUH ...?
... WHAT?
AND, ANYWAY, I ONLY WENT TO BED WITH YOU 'CAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR YOU.
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY SICK OF IT...
I JUST DON'T GET WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT LOVE AND STUFF.
AND I'M TIRED.

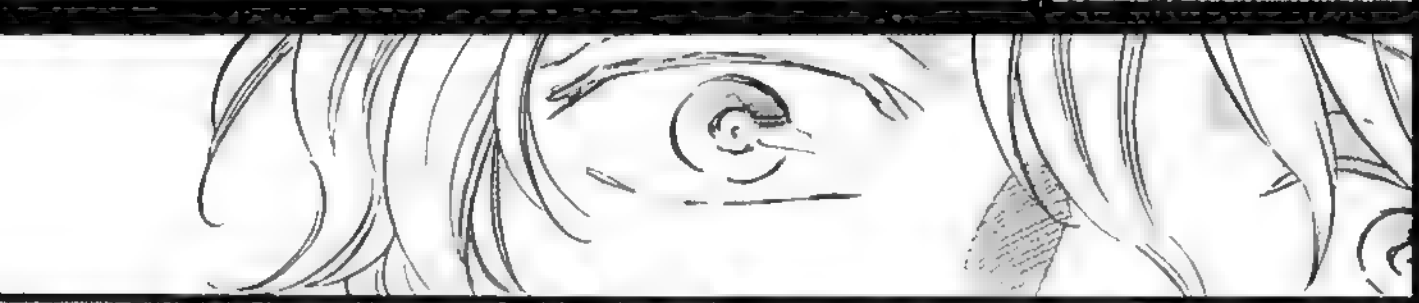
...DID SOME-THING...
HAPPEN?
TSUYU-HIKO?
...
...
TSUYUHI-
SO LONG.
CLICK!
END

CHAPTER 6

...I HEARD AYAME DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.
SHE WAS SO YOUNG. IT'S SO SAD...
THEY SAID SHE WAS ABOUT TO GET MARRIED.
HER HUSBAND-TO-BE SEEMED LIKE A VERY NICE, SINCERE MAN.
I ONLY RECENTLY HEARD ABOUT IT.

THAT IS, UNTIL THAT DAY A WHILE AFTER THE FUNERAL.
AOBA FAMILY TOMB
I HADN'T TALKED WITH HIM MUCH.
GOH CAME OVER ... WITH MY SISTER NOW AND THEN.
HE ALWAYS LOOKS SO PROPER!
ALL I KNEW... WAS THAT HE WAS LIKE A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE MATURE MAN.
HI!
BOW
HI.

UH...
DID YOU KNOW MY SISTER?
WHO IS HE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE...



...AYAME?

OH.

THAT WAS THE START OF OUR FUTILE RELATION-SHIP.
MY BODY STILL REMEMBERS HOW TERRIBLY EXCITED I GOT.
...IF YOU SEE HER IN ME...
YOU CAN PRETEND I'M HER...
PANT...!
...OH, IT'S YOU...
...YOU LOOK LIKE HER WHEN I SEE YOU UP CLOSE.
SHIVER...
I'M... A GUY... BUT IS IT OKAY TO CONSOLE HIM...?
NO WAY... HE'S CHANGED COMPLETELY.
HOW COULD I LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS...?

I REMEMBERED THE PLEASURE OF GIVING EACH OF THEM A MOMENT'S LOVE, BUT...
SO, IT BEGAN.
I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM REACHING OUT TO GUYS IN PAIN.

GOH STOOD OUT AMONG THEM.

DON'T YOU EVER GO AWAY...
HE ALWAYS SEEMED ...
THE MOST MISERABLE...
AH.!
SHIVER!
SHIVER!
HF.

...COME TO THINK OF IT...

DON'T MAKE ME WAIT.
WAS IT BACK AT THE BEGINNING...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME HERE FOR A CHANGE.

THAT I FELT UTTERLY HOPELESS ABOUT MY PERVERTED DESIRES?
HOW'S IT GOING, TSUYUHIKO?

CHAPTER 6

AFTER THE RAIN

OUTGOING
INCOMING
TSUYUHIKO
080-123-4567
ONE DAY AGO
CANCEL
TSUYUHIKO
080-123-4567
ONE DAY AGO
CANCEL
HE ISN'T ANSWERING MY CALLS. HE'S IGNORING MY TEXTS.
HE ISN'T ANSWERING HIS DOOR... ISN'T HE HOME...?
...A WEEK'S GONE BY SINCE THAT DAY.
WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD...
HE'S MORE DIRECT.
...BUT...
RUB!
...MAYBE...
HE'S WITH THAT GUY.

GOD...
HE'S BAD AT LYING.

THAT HE'S OKAY...
...I CAN ONLY HOPE...
FSSSHHH
...MORE RAIN IS PREDICTED.
THE FORECAST IS FOR HEAVY RAIN TONIGHT AND RIVERS MAY START FLOODING.
PLEASE STAY INSIDE AND SEEK HIGHER GROUND IF NECESSARY.
NEXT UP...

...
...
TURN THAT THING OFF. IT'S IRRITATING.
BZZZT!
BZZZT!
GET OVER HERE.
WHAT IS THIS? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO COME OVER.
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
THAT ISN'T WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME HERE.
...HUH?

GOH, I'M NOT GOING TO SEE YOU ANYMORE.
AND...
STAY AWAY FROM NATSURO.
THIS IS IT.
STOP IT. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!!
YOU GONNA GO TO THAT NERD'S PLACE?
BUT, I KNOW YOU.
...!
HE'S GONNA DO YOU TILL HE GETS SICK OF YOU, THEN TOSS YOU OUT LIKE THOSE OTHERS HAVE.
STAB
CLATTER!

TRYING TO ACT BRAVE?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LIKE.
NOTHING GOOD'S GONNA HAPPEN...
WITH HIM.
I'M TALKING TO YOU NOW 'CAUSE I WANT TO MEET HIS EXPECTATIONS.
... NATSURO ISN'T LIKE THAT.
INSTEAD OF TOSSING ME OUT, HE'S TRIED OVER AND OVER TO REALLY SEE ME.

...BUT...
I DON'T WANT NATSURO TO BE SAD BECAUSE OF ME.
I KNOW MY BODY'S OUT OF CONTROL.
...I KNOW.

BE-SIDES...
I DON'T HAVE TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...
TO WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH HIM...
BUT, I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP.
IS THAT WEIRD?
DOESN'T THAT MEAN I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM?
DOESN'T IT?

I HOPE HE'S HOME...
DING DONG
...RRRING
RRRING
CALLING
FSSHH
TAP
DON'T!
HEY...
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO COME TO THIS...!?
!?
GRAB!

...!!
CLATTER!
I SAID WAIT...!
HEY...
CLATTER!
THUD
TSUYU-HIKO!
I'M COMING INSIDE!
BA-
NG
...!!
...!!
TSUYUHIKO...!

I SAID STOP IT...
HUH...?
NO...!
NATSURO...
DON'T...

!
GRAB!
I HAVEN'T FINISHED TALKING TO HIM...
YOU BASTARD ...!
THUD!
UGH!

...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
HA!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? STOP GETTING IN MY WAY.
TSUYUHIKO...
RUB!
PLEASE...
STOP IT!
ARE YOU OKAY?
NATSURO...

I TOLD YOU WE WERE DONE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
...
...!
WHEN YOU HUNG UP...
TWITCH
IT SOUNDED LIKE THERE WAS MORE YOU WANTED TO SAY.
SO, I CAME TO ASK YOU WHAT THAT WAS.

HEY.
BEAT IT. HE WANTS TO SEE ME, NOT YOU.
EVEN NOW...
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO ME.
...!
...
...

...YOU KNOW WHAT?
SST!
EATING OUT AT RESTAURANTS WITH YOU, NATSURO, GOING OVER TO YOUR PLACE...
TALKING WITH YOU ABOUT COMPLICATED THINGS, LAUGHING ABOUT TRIVIAL STUFF...
IT'S SO MUCH FUN BEING WITH YOU...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

IT GETS HARD TO BREATHE..
MY CHEST...
GETS HOT... AND IT ACHES.
...YOU KNOW...
WHAT THAT'S LIKE, DON'T YOU, GOH?
HOW COULD YOU FORGET...?

THUD!
PANT!

GR-
AB!
THAT'S NOT AL-RIGHT...!
GRIP...!
...!
...SHUT UP!
CRACK!
WHACK!

HOIST!
!!
THUD!
THUD!
HEY ...!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!
CLATTER
HEY!
GRAB!
I SAID BEAT IT...!
...!
...WHAT-EVER RE-LATION-SHIP...
FSSSHHH
THE TWO OF YOU MAY HAVE HAD UNTIL NOW...

YOU LOST IT ALL...
THE MOMENT YOU GOT VIOLENT.
SHUT UP!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? HE NEEDS ME...
NO, HE DOESN'T!
NATSURO...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN'T LET HIM GO.
BUT, I'M SORRY.
I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM FROM YOU.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN.
TSUYUHIKO'S TRYING HARD TO DEAL WITH HIS EMOTIONS.
...BUT...
YOU CAN'T FEEL HOW HURT HE IS...
BUT I CAN. AND I CAN FEEL HIS JOY.
THAT'S BECAUSE WE FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT EACH OTHER.

RELEASE!
GRAB
...!
...
...!!
!?
SLIP!
...AH.
...OH...
THIS IS BAD...
!!
NATSU-RO!
BUMP

THUD!
OW.
OW.
OW.
OW!
SLIDE!
GRAB!
I'M ALIVE...
SIZZLE...
T-... TSUYU-HIKO! ARE YOU OKAY!?
YOU'RE WORSE OFF...
SORRY. YOU SCRAPED YOUR HEAD HARD. YOU'RE GONNA BE BALD...
OH... THAT MIGHT NOT BE FUNNY...

ALL THIS TIME, THERE'S SO MUCH I NEVER REALIZED WHILE I WAS WITH YOU...
TWITCH
GOH...
BUT I UNDER-STAND WHEN I'M WITH NATSURO.
SERI-OUSLY...
I NEVER WOULD HAVE KNOWN ANY OF IT WITHOUT HIM...
...SO...

I...
CAN'T BE WITH YOU, GOH.
I WANT TO BE WITH NATSURO...
THE WAY YOU USED TO BE WITH MY SISTER!

SSTT!
RUFFLE!
... NAIVE LIKE A KID.
MUMBLE

P-TMP
...
...
CREAK...

COME ON...

LET'S GO INSIDE. YOU NEED A COLD COMPRESS FOR THAT CHEEK. AND, WE MADE A RACKET, SO...
WE SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOUR NEIGH-BORS...

HUH?

...I'M SORRY, NATSURO.
HM?
ABOUT WHAT?

SNIFFLE
OH! YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING, TOO...

THE TEARS WON'T STOP... WHAT IS THIS?
PLIP
PLIP
WELL...

I SAID... SOME TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU.
I KNEW YOU'D WORRY ABOUT ME, AND I'D CAUSE TROUBLE FOR YOU IF I WASN'T HARSH...
RUB
RUB
ABOUT GOH...
I WANTED TO SORT THROUGH IT ALL, THEN MOVE FORWARD WITH YOU.
BUT, I KNOW...
YOU DID THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING OF ME.
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, TSUYU-HIKO.

THANKS FOR MAKING AN EFFORT FOR ME.
SQUEEZE
I LOVE YOU.
PHEEEW...
I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT...
SLUUUMP
I'M GLAD TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN LIKE THIS...
DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT EVER GOING TO LET YOU GO.
END

CHAPTER 7

SQUEEZE!
むぎゅっ
WAKE UP!
NATSURO!

...YOUR CHEEK ISN'T SWOLLEN...
SQUEEZE!
...GOOD.

COME ON, WAKE UP!
IT'S A WASTE OF OUR TIME TOGETHER TO SLEEP.
...HUH?
GOOD MORNING...
むぎゅっ
SQUEEZE
むぎゅっ
SQUEEZE

CREAK!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
YAWN...
I KNOW I AM!
C'MON!!

HERE'S YOUR GLASS-ES...
...OH.
COME ON! TIME TO GET UP.
...YEAH.
...OH.
BENT...
B-DMP

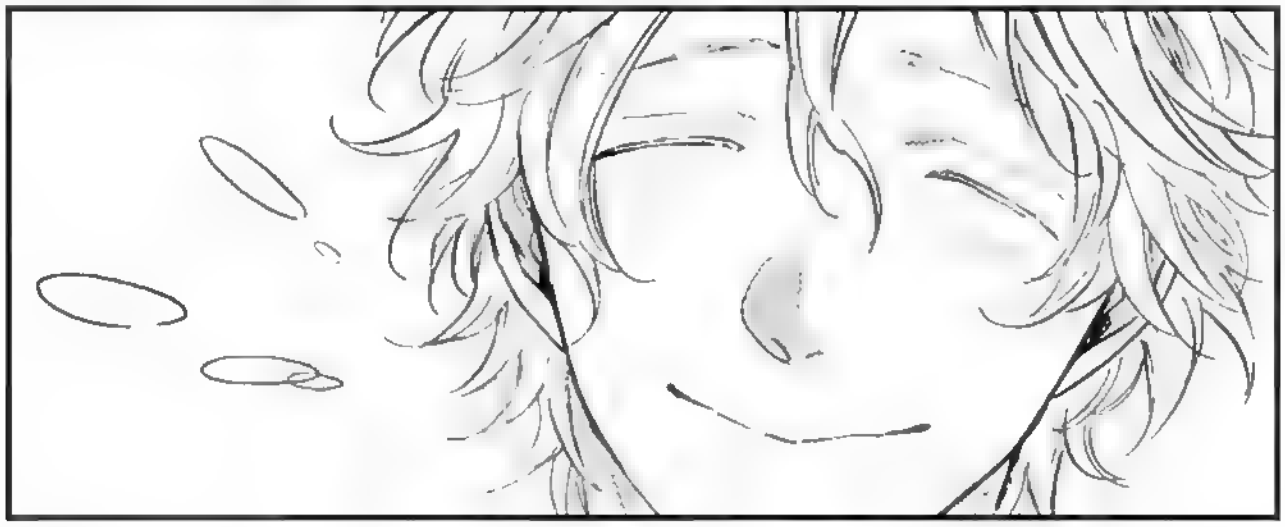
IT'S OKAY. I WAS GOING TO BUY NEW ONES, ANYWAY.
REALLY...?

THEY GOT WRECKED YESTER-DAY...

...SORRY.

CREAK!
I KNOW!
LET'S GO OUT AND BUY A NEW PAIR! WE'LL MAKE IT A DATE!
GOOD IDEA.
THE WEATHER'S NICE. A PERFECT DAY FOR A DATE.
YEAH!
IT'S DECIDED!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YOU CAN WEAR SOMETHING I HAVE.
TSUYU-HIKO...
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

UH...



GREAT!
JU-
カ!!!
OF COURSE!
ば!!
MP!

ISN'T THIS OUTFIT TOO FLASHY FOR ME...?
WE HAVEN'T HAD NICE WEATHER LIKE THIS IN AGES!
IT'S NICE AND DRY!
SQUEEZE!
!
AW! THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS!
FIDGET!
Y-...
YEAH...
?
IT'S OUR FIRST DATE AS A COUPLE.
I'M GLAD I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL...
BUT PEOPLE ARE WATCHING...

WHOA!
THEY'RE NOT YOU!
I DON'T THINK SO, EITHER...
TRY THESE.
THIS IS EMBAR-RASS-ING...
LET'S GET GOING!
OH... OKAY ...!
PULL!
WELL, AS LONG AS TSUYUHIKO'S HAVING FUN...
OH! NATSURO!
SST!
YES!
YOU LOOK GREAT!
YOU CAN WEAR THEM AT WORK!
B-DMP
ドキ
R-REALLY?
I... I'M FEELING EVEN MORE SELF-CON-SCIOUS NOW...
THESE WOULD PROBABLY LOOK GOOD ON YOU.

YEAH!
YOU LOOK COOL.
...!
IB-DMD
...WHAT CAN I SAY?
HE'S AWFULLY CUTE TODAY...
I THINK I'll TAKE THEM.
GREAT!

I HAVEN'T HAD FAST FOOD IN FOREVER.
MOZ

WE'LL MAKE THIS LIGHT AND HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL DINNER. MAYBE STEAK.
HEY!
CAN I HAVE A BITE OF YOUR BURGER?
ALL RIGHT...
SURE.

!?
HEY...!
TSUYU-HIKO!
HERE, TASTE MINE!
NOT IN PUBLIC ...!
YUM!
MUNCH!
SAY AHH. OVER HERE.
...!
NO ONE CAN SEE US...
IN THIS CORNER.
... UH... NOT HERE ...
IT'S OKAY.
SST...
...MM.
MUNCH!

MM, THIS IS GOOD.

WH-...
WHAT IS WITH YOU TODAY?
GOT IT.
MUNCH!
YOU HAVE SOME-THING ON YOUR CHEEK.

IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT BEING HERE WITH YOU.
...BACK IN SCHOOL...
I WENT OUT ON DATES WITH A FEW GIRLS.

...YEAH.
IT'S FUN BEING ON A DATE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER.

KISS
WHOA! NOT AGAIN.
OKAY!

DRIZZLE
OH... IT WAS SO SUNNY A MINUTE AGO.
THE WEATHER FORECAST SAID IT WOULD BE, TOO.
DRIZZLE
DRIP
OH!
THE SHOP IS RIGHT AROUND THAT CORNER.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WALK.
FSSSH
OH, IT'S SERIOUSLY STARTING TO POUR.
HURRY ...!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE...
RUMBLE...
USE THIS.
WE'LL RUN TO THE STORE.
TSUYU-HIKO...
HUH?

LET'S GO.
...OKAY.
...RIGHT!

SPLA-
SH!
IT'S RAINING BUCKETS!
YEAH.
WE GET RAINED ON A LOT, DON'T WE...?
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU COLD?

LET'S GO!
OH! YOUR SHIRT... SORRY.
HUH?
ISN'T THIS THE STORE?
I GOT IT SOAKED...
PULL!
PANT...
I WANNA HAVE SEX WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

HF...!
HF...
SNAP
HF!
CREAK!
PANT!
MN...

PANT...
CREAK!
HF!
FWUMP!
MN...
KISS
KISS
RUSTLE...
MN!
TWITCH!
AH!
SLCH...
AH!
HF...
KISS
KISS

SHIVER
SHIVER!
AH!
W-...
WAIT...!
AH!
AH.
HF...!

...!
SPLURT!
SHIT
...
SORRY,
I CAME...

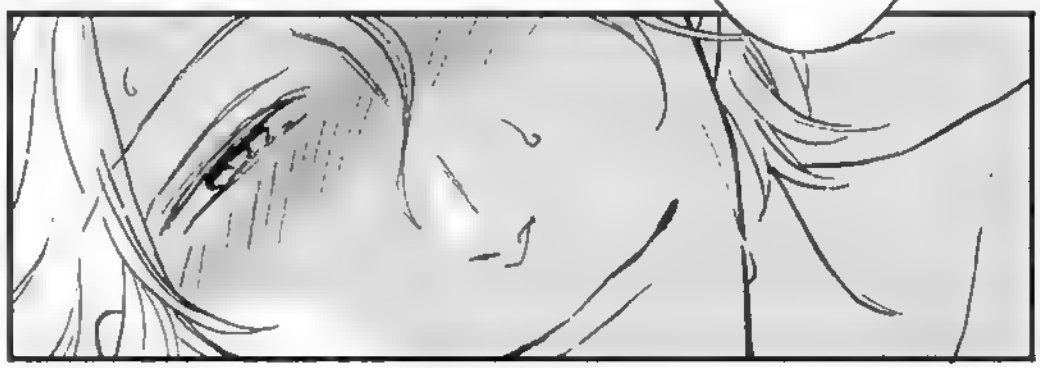
...WELL,
THEN.

HUUUH!?
I WANTED
US TO COME
TOGETHER!
HE'S SO
CUTE...
YOU
DON'T
NEED TO
APOLO-
GIZE.

HOW ABOUT ONE MORE ROUND...
TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN?
...
SURE...!

CREAK!
SLCH!
SLCH
SLCH
...AH!
N-...
NATSURO!
HF...!
CREAK!
CREAK!
...AH.
CREAK!
CREAK!
AH!
LOVE YOU...!
HF.
CREAK!
...LOVE YOU.
PANT!
AH...
SLIDE!
I LOVE YOU...
NATSURO ...!
CREAK!
WHISPER
I LOVE YOU, TOO...
PANT!
...AH.
SST!

HEY... NATSURO?



HM?

TO DO IT WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT FELT SO GOOD...
TOUCHED...
LOVE IS REALLY AMAZING...
...KISS!
SLCH!
SLCH...!
SHLP!
CREAK!
HF...
MM.
MM!
HUH...?
AH...!
PUSH...!
MN!
CREAK!
KISS...
AH.
AH! MN!
SHLP
...HF!
SLCH!
MN...

TSUYU-...
HIKO...!
...
...!
GONNA...
COME...!
...
...!
PLUNGE...
PLUNGE...
NATSU-
RO...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SQCH...
SQCH...
HF...
HF...
HF...
HF...
HF)
RUB
MN!
MM...
TWITCH
TWITCH!

WHY'RE YOU CRYING!?
OH... SORRY...

PAAANT...
WE CAME TOGETHER!
I'M SO GLAD...

...HUH!?

...OH, BOY.
I KEEP EMBARRASSING MYSELF IN FRONT OF YOU.
HUH? WHEN?
LIKE NOW.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SAD ANYMORE BECAUSE OF ME.
DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT...?
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR EVERY WORD YOU SAY.
THANKS FOR SAYING SO MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

AWW... I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...
WHOA!
SQUEEEEEZE
HEY... TSUYU-HIKO... YOU'RE SUFFO-CATING ME...!

I'M SO LUCKY...
TO HAVE MET YOU.
...I'M SO GLAD...

I WAS JUST THINKING OF THE DAY WE FIRST MET.
HUH...?
IT WAS REALLY EXCITING THAT TIME...
BUT THIS IS TEN TIMES MORE AMAZING.

I DIDN'T...
GIVE UP ON THIS RELATIONSHIP.
NEXT, NUMBER 53.
HELLO.
HI, I'D LIKE TO FILE THIS.

...IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YES, IT HAS.

...YOU'VE GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU...
FALLING FOR A COMPLICATED GUY LIKE THAT.
THERE MUST BE OTHERS, YOU KNOW.

I DON'T WANNA STICK AROUND NEAR YOU GUYS.
YOU'RE MOVING AWFULLY FAR AWAY...

WELL...
I GUESS... NOT...
カチ CLICK
カチ CLICK
カチ CLICK
CLICK!

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HIM SO MANY HICKIES.
OTHER-WISE...
IT'S FUNNY TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU OF ALL PEOPLE.
HUH?
...TAKE CARE.
GRAB!
...TSK!

HAHAHA!
THE WEATHER FORECAST IS SO WRONG!
WHO'D HAVE EXPECTED A SUN SHOWER?
...AND WITH THE ARRIVAL OF SUMMER...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE SUNSHINE ALL WEEK.
WHOA! ITS RAINING AGAIN!?
FSSHH...
IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG. DO YOU WANT TO RUN TO DO SOME SHOPPING?
YEAH.
WE CAN GET A CUP OF COFFEE.
OH!
WAIT!
MAKE SURE TO TAKE PRE-CAUTIONS AGAINST HEAT STROKE...
THE SUN'S OUT. BUT IT'S POURING!

COME HERE AND TAKE COVER!
NATSURO!
YEP!
WE'RE GOING TO RUN... LIKE THIS?
IT'S COZY.
QUICK! YOU'LL GET WET!
LET'S GO TO THAT CAFÉ ON THE MAIN ROAD.
ON YOUR MARK...!
W.b.

IT SEEMS WE'RE ALWAYS GETTING RAINED ON.
NO PROBLEM. IT'S FUN.

HAHA!
ACTUALLY, I DON'T MIND IT AT ALL.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU DID!
LET'S TAKE COVER SOMEPLACE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD.
RICE BOWL OR KARAOKE?

...HEY, NATSURO.
HM?
SQUEEZE
DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND... OKAY?
AND, I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOURS.

RIGHT.
I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOU. I PROMISE.
OH, SO WHAT IF I GET WET!?
YOU CAN HAVE THE SHIRT!
AP!
HUH!? THEN...
I'LL JOIN YOU!
FW-
END

AFTER
THE
RAIN

THE SUMMER HEAT IS POUNDING...
AND SO ARE WE.
WE OFFICIALLY STARTED DATING.
I LOVE YOU!!
OUR DAYS ARE FILLED WITH PASSION.
KISS!

...HUH?
BUT, TODAY...

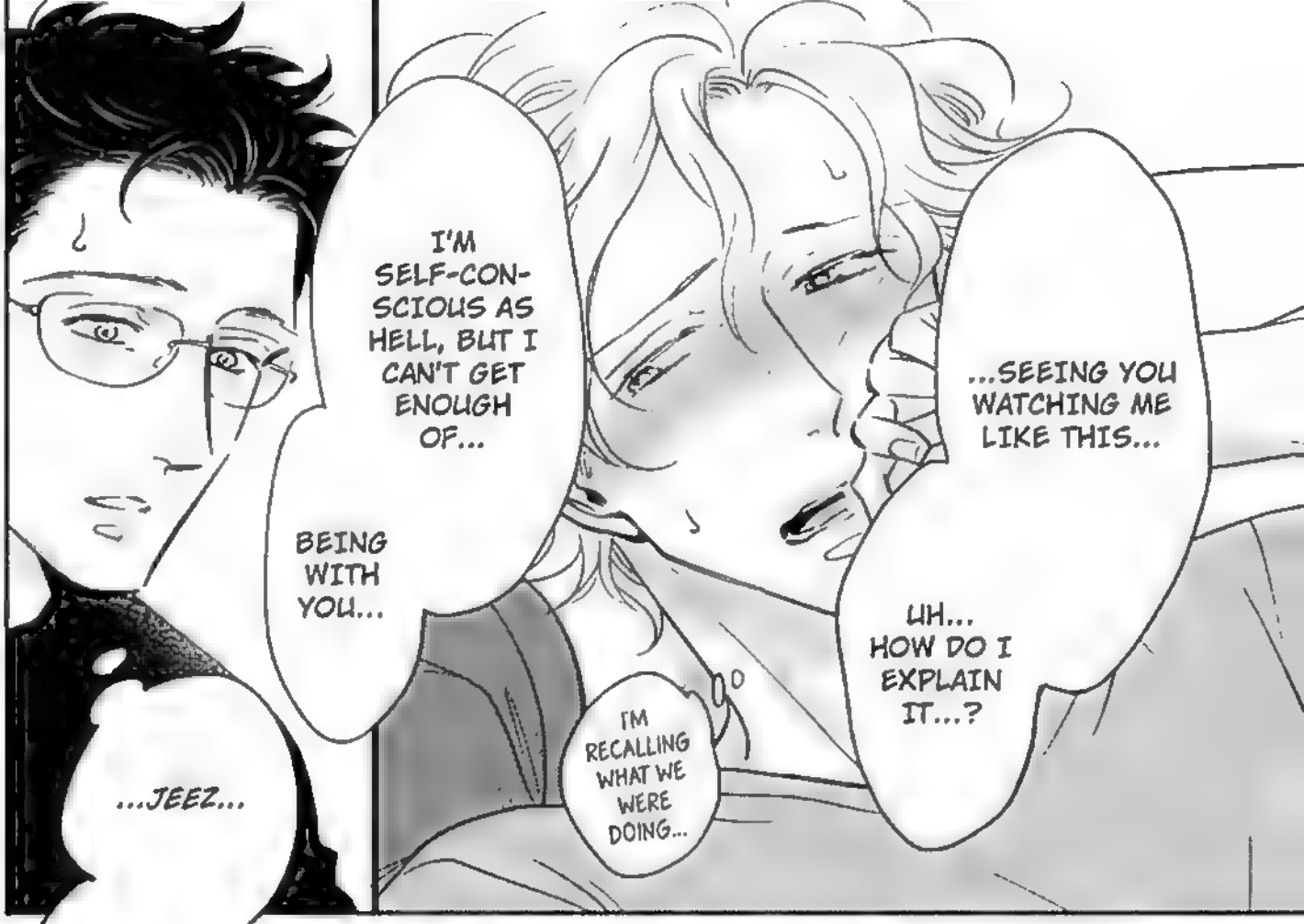
FIDGET
BUT... DAMN...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO EXCITED TO THINK ABOUT IT...
B-DMP!
B-DMP!
B-DMP
...!
WHOA...
...WAS IT ALWAYS THIS EMBARRASSING TO HAVE HIM STARE AT ME...
WHILE WE DID IT...?

SHIT... I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYE...
NATSURO...
CAN WE DO IT FROM THE BACK...?

CREAK!
HF.
AH!
HF...
...
...
NATSURO...!
はぁ
PANT...
AH...
CREAK!
TURN!
...TSUYU-HIKO...
SORRY.
I WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE...
はぁ
PANT...

AH...
HUH!?
AH...
NATSURO... I'M... EMBARRASSED...
WAIT...
AH...
BUT...
WAIT...
B-DMP!
CREAK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY I'D BEEN BEFORE.
...THINKING ABOUT IT NOW...

THAT WAS WHY I DECIDED TO STUDY HUMAN SCIENCES.
I WONDERED...
IF THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO ABOUT MY PHYSICAL HABITS.
YEAH.
"BEFORE"?
I'D GET SO TURNED ON, I'D BARELY EVEN LOOK AT THE OTHER PERSON.
I FOUND OUT THAT THERE WAS PRETTY MUCH NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT MY ISSUES.
BLU-
...UH...
WELL...
UUSH
AND, NOW?


I'M SELF-CONSCIOUS AS HELL, BUT I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF...
BEING WITH YOU...
...JEEZ...
...SEEING YOU WATCHING ME LIKE THIS...
UH... HOW DO I EXPLAIN IT...?
I'M RECALLING WHAT WE WERE DOING...

HE'S ADORABLE...
STARE...!
GASP!

...BUT, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.

HUUUH!!?
WITH YOUR FACE!
OH, GOD!!
DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE!
OW!
GRR!
THAT HURTS.
HUH?

YOU DIDN'T SAY YOU LOVE ME AS MANY TIMES AS YOU USUALLY DO...
AND I WONDERED IF SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED...
TSUYUHIKO...
THANKS FOR FALLING SO DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ME.
B-DMP キュン!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU!?
WHY'RE YOU THANKING ME!?
I'M ONLY GETTING STARTED, NATSURO!
HAHAHA!
SAME HERE.
END

BAMBOO COMICS [Qpa collection]

AFTER THE RAIN

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RAIN ON A SUNNY DAY ... PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING Qpa COMICS.
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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Qpa
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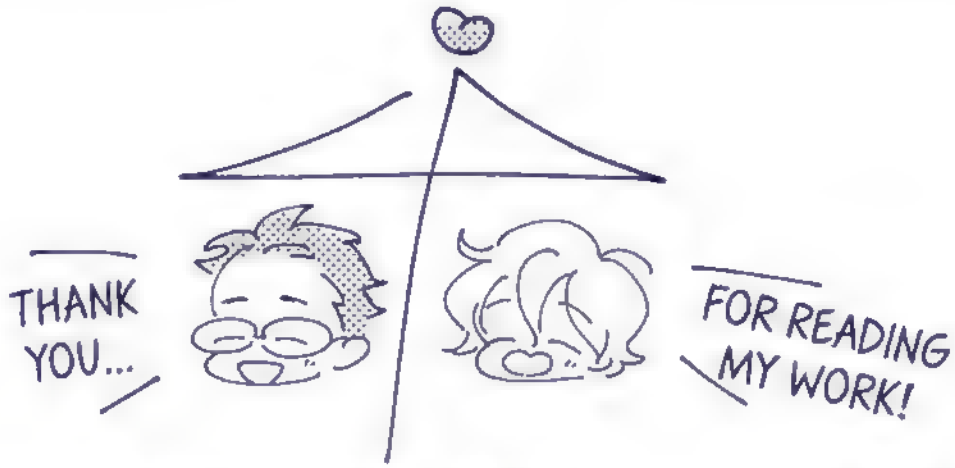
bamboo comics

Story

IT ONLY TOOK A MOMENT FOR HIS FIVE-YEAR-LONG AFFAIR TO END.
NATSURO IS SITTING IN A PARK HE ONCE FREQUENTED WITH HIS FORMER LOVE. HE'S FEELING BROKEN-HEARTED AND EMPTY WHEN A MAN APPROACHES HIM... A MAN WHO REMINDS HIM OF THE ONE HE'D JUST LOST.
HIS NAME IS TSUYUHIKO. TSUYUHIKO PRACTICALLY FORCES HIM TO COME TO HIS APARTMENT, SAYING HE CAN'T BEAR TO LEAVE A MAN DROWNING IN HIS SORROW. THEN, EXCHANGING FEW WORDS, TSUYUHIKO SAYS NATSURO CAN THINK OF HIM AS A REPLACEMENT FOR HIS FORMER LOVE AS THEY PROCEED TO INDULGE IN PHYSICAL PLEASURE.

NATSURO CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE'S DONE. BUT, SEEING TSUYUHIKO'S INNOCENT SMILE AS HE PROMISES TO SEE HIM AGAIN, SOMETHING STARTS TO CHANGE INSIDE HIM. LITTLE DOES HE KNOW THE COMPLICATED ISSUES THAT PLAGUE TSUYUHIKO.

AFTER THE RAIN

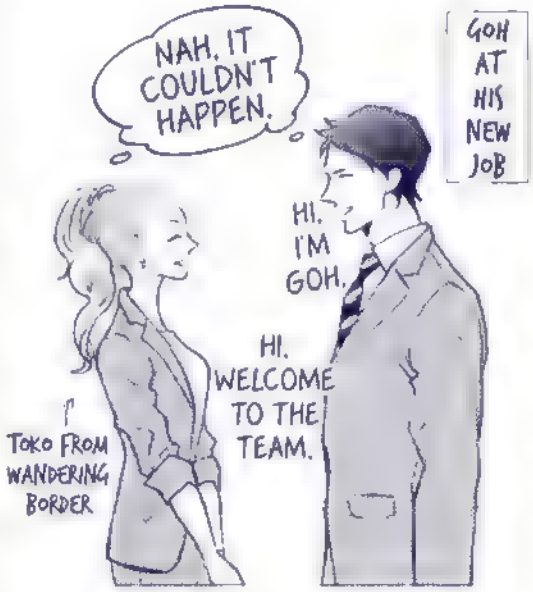


HI, I'M AKI UEDA. THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP A COPY OF "AFTER THE RAIN." IT'S A SEQUEL TO MY LAST COMIC, "WANDERING BORDER," WITH NATSURO MEETING TSUYUHIKO AFTER SUFFERING A BROKEN HEART THERE.

SINCE THE RELEASE OF MY PREVIOUS WORK, I RECEIVED MANY READER COMMENTS SAYING THEY WANTED TO SEE A HAPPY ENDING FOR NATSURO AS WELL. LUCKILY FOR ME, THE SINGLE PAGE I CREATED ON NATSURO AFTER HIS HEARTBREAK COULD EVOLVE INTO A SPINOFF. MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES FOR TAKING SO LONG TO PUT THE STORY TOGETHER. IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT READERS HAVE NONETHELESS BEEN WAITING FOR THE STORY TO COME OUT AND YOUR WARM WORDS DURING THE SERIALIZATION SERIOUSLY KEPT ME GOING.

I GOT WORRIED ABOUT THESE TWO, WONDERING IF IT WAS OKAY TO HURT NATSURO, WHO WAS IN ENOUGH PAIN AS THINGS STOOD, AND TO SHOW THE COMPLICATED ISSUES THAT TSUYUHIKO FACED... BUT I THINK THEY MATURED TOGETHER AND BECAME A FINE COUPLE IN THE END. I'M GLAD THEY'RE HAVING FUN NOW, TEASING AND BEING TEASED BY ONE ANOTHER (AND I FEEL LIKE SUCH A PARENT).

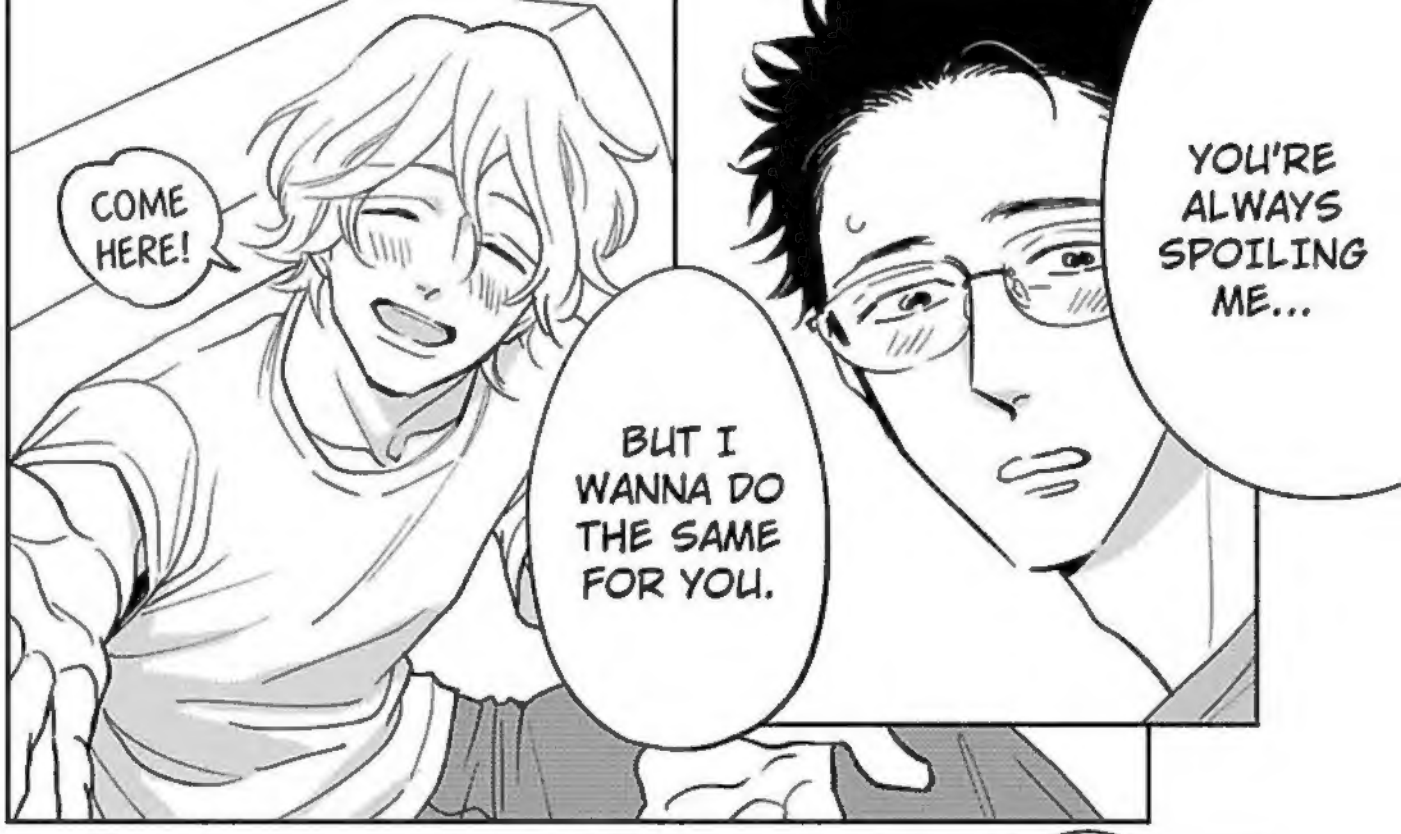
THANKS AGAIN FOR READING THIS WORK!
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM "WANDERING BORDER," AND I HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT.



THANK YOU, LOYAL READERS, MY EDITOR, WHO I ALWAYS END UP WORRYING DUE TO MY SHORTCOMINGS, THE DESIGNER WHO CAME UP WITH IDEAS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL COVER, THE PEOPLE IN SALES, THE PRINTERS, THE BOOKSTORES, AND EVERYONE ELSE INVOLVED IN CREATING THIS WORK. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

BONUS PAGES FOLLOW.

PAT ME MORE!
PAT なで
なで PAT
ROLL!
THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS WORK ONLINE!
PAT...
PING PING
?
STARE...!
CREAK!
NATSURO!
OVER HERE!
PAT ぽん
PAT ぽん
HUH!?
LET ME SPOIL YOU.
AFTER THE RAIN DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE
Aki Ueda


COME HERE!
BUT I WANNA DO THE SAME FOR YOU.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SPOILING ME...

IF YOU INSIST...
YEP.
...WELL...

ISN'T IT!?
UM...
...IT'S GREAT.
FIDGET!
PAT
PAT
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

...!

PAT
NATSURO...
...!
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?
B-DMD
HE'S ALL INNOCENT ONE MINUTE, THEN GENTLE THE NEXT.
HE HAS SO MANY DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS...
YOU'RE LIKE A HYDRANGEA...
MUMBLE
HM?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
OH! NOTHING...
I WAS JUST THINKING, SEEING YOU FROM THIS ANGLE...
THAT I REALLY LOVE YOU...

SO, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SEEN ME FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE.
...YOU KNOW...
I'VE NEVER DONE THIS TO ANYONE.
THAT'S GREAT, BUT TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO!
OH! SORRY ...
SQUEEZE...
WHO CAN SEE YOU LIKE THAT.
I WANT TO CONTINUE TO BE THE ONLY ONE...
...I KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO.
OF COURSE. I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE IT'S YOU, NATSURO.
KISS!
WHOA!
KISS!
OH? WHAT?
end